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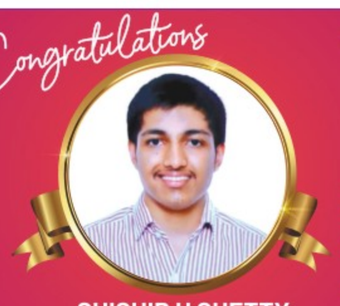

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K.P. Sharma Oli

Hope Oli gets India invite in first half of this year: Nepal FM

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI/MUSCAT

Nepal awaits an invitation for its Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli to visit India, Nepali Foreign Minister Arzu Deuba Rana said on Saturday. She hoped that Mr. Oli and Prime Minister Narendra Modi will meet on the sidelines of BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok in April, and that Mr. Oli would be invited to New Delhi in the "first half" of 2025.

The comments by Ms. Rana, who has visited Delhi twice since the Oli government took charge in July 2024, indicate a strain in ties between Delhi and Kathmandu over the Modi government's unusual delay in hosting the Nepali PM. After sensing a delay from India, Mr. Oli travelled to Beijing in November 2024.

FULL REPORT
» PAGE 12

8 trapped in Telangana tunnel, rescue efforts on

13 injured after roof of Srisailam project tunnel collapses; Army and NDRF experts to reach site soon; PM assures State of all help; officials say there is 4 feet of water in tunnel owing to seepage

B. Chandrashekhar
HYDERABAD

Eight persons were trapped 14 km inside an under-construction tunnel of the Srisailam Left Bank Canal project after a section of its roof collapsed on Saturday morning in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana.

Thirteen workers who sustained injuries came out of the tunnel with the help of another 29 workers who escaped unhurt.

Those trapped are two engineers from Uttar Pradesh, two technical staff members from Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab, and four labourers from Jharkhand.

The injured were admitted to the nearby hospital of the Telangana Power Generation Corporation (TG-Genco) at Domalapenta.

No headway

No headway was made in the rescue even as three teams of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) from Hyderabad and Vijayawada reached the site. The authorities are making arrangements to ensure oxygen supply in the tunnel. Those trapped were identified as Manoj Kumar (project engineer); Sri Niwas (site engineer); Sunny Singh and Gurpreet Singh (technical staffer handling the tunnel boring machine and supporting machinery); and Sandeep Sahu, Jagta Xess, Santosh Sahu, Anuj Sahu (all labourers).

Racing against time: Police and fire services personnel near the Srisailam Left Bank Canal tunnel in Nagarkurnool district of Telangana. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The trapped are two engineers from U.P., two technical staff from J&K and Punjab, and four labourers from Jharkhand

Telangana Minister for Irrigation N. Uttam Kumar Reddy has sought the help of tunnel experts from the Army and the NDRF who handled a similar incident in Uttarakhand a couple of years ago. They are expected to arrive late at night or early on Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called up Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and offered all assistance.

Authorities of the Irrigation Department said a three-metre section of the roof collapsed owing to continuous seepage of water, which also led to accumulation of about four feet of water on the tunnel floor. It eventually led to the tunnel crumbling over a stretch of eight metres.

Along with experts from the coal mines of Singareni Collieries Company Ltd., the SDRF and Fire Services personnel, the NDRF teams were trying to assess the situation at the site.

NEARBY

E-khata incentive: 5% property tax rebate planned

BENGALURU
The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, with an aim to incentivise e-khata, is contemplating a 5% rebate on property tax for owners securing the digital document.
» Page 2

How lab report confirmed OMR sheet tampering

BENGALURU
A Forensic Science Laboratory report has confirmed that the OMR sheets of 10 candidates were tampered with to ensure higher marks during the exam conducted by KPSC. » PAGE 9

Some bus services from Maharashtra hit

HUBBALLI/MUMBAI
Bus services between Karnataka and Maharashtra (from Kolhapur division) were suspended from late Saturday evening following an attack on an MSRTC bus near Chitradurga in Karnataka on Friday night. » Page 8

CLASSIFIEDS » PAGES 4 & 6
MAGAZINE » 8 PAGES

Manipur sees rising support for push to surrender weapons

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Members of the Kuki-Zomi community in Churachandpur district of Manipur surrendered 16 looted and illegal weapons on Saturday following an appeal by Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla.

The weapons, including AK rifles, under-barrel grenade launchers and gelatine sticks, were surrendered following the joint efforts of the Assam Rifles, State intelligence agencies, Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and Manipur Police.

The Assam Rifles said in a statement that the agencies organised a series of meetings with the local community and the "act of surrender of weapons in the hill and valley areas is likely to result in further surrenders in the State".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 11

'PM should respond to Trump's claim'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Playing a video clip of U.S. President Donald Trump saying that $21 million from USAID had been going to his "friend" Prime Minister Narendra Modi for voter turnout, the Congress on Saturday urged Mr. Modi to respond to the U.S. President's assertions.

The video showing Mr. Trump's remarks, made while addressing a meeting of U.S. State Governors on Saturday, was released by the White House.

"PM Modi must talk to his friend President Trump and strongly refute the allegation that America was about to give $21 million to him and India for increasing voter turnout," Pawan Khera, who heads the Congress's media and publicity wing, said at a press conference.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 11

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Deserted destination: The gateway to Badampudi where bird fu has been confirmed.

Red zone: A sign board cautions people against bird flu in Badampudi.

Safety check: A team of experts examine chicken for flu symptoms.

Control crew: A team of experts examine a poultry farm at Badampudi village following the outbreak of avian influenza.

Silent coops, hidden threat

Concern over avian influenza that broke out in an Andhra Pradesh village in early February has had its impact on livelihoods, affect poultry and other industries

K.V. S. Giri
giri.kvs@thehindu.co.in

Badampudi, a small village in Eluru district about 100 kilometres from Vijayawada in Andhra Pradesh, has been facing tough times after the outbreak of avian influenza (bird flu) in the first week of February. The narrow lanes of the village, usually bustling with farmers tending to their poultry, now stand eerily silent. A red flag flutters at the village's entrance, marking it as a newly declared biosecurity zones – ground zero in the fight against the flu.

In the early hours, health officials clad in protective suits and faces hidden behing masks move through rows of chicken coops, many empty. The sharp scent of disinfectant lingers in the air as they inspect flocks for signs of infection. Once thriving with clucking birds and hopeful farmers, Badampudi, along with Velpuru, Kanuru, and Gampalagudem, now face strict restrictions, cutting off mobility to curb the spread of the virus.

State Agriculture and Animal Husbandry Minister Kinjarapu Atchannaidu has assured residents that precautions are in place. Three-tier security measures have been implemented – red zones confine movement within a kilometre of infected areas, while surveillance teams monitor a 10-kilometre radius. Beyond this, normalcy persists, with the sale of chicken and eggs continuing undisturbed.

But the fear about avian flu has had its impact on the food industry in parts of the State. Some of the restaurants that had chicken as the main item on the menu have shut down.

At a local farm, Ramayya, a poultry farmer, gazes at his empty enclosures, worry lining his face. "This is my livelihood," he says, voice tinged with fear. "If the virus spreads, we lose everything."

(Text: Serish Nanisetti)

Spreading the word: Health workers engaged in a door-to-door campaign to raise awareness of the flu.

E-khata incentive: BBMP plans to introduce 5% property tax rebate

The civic body has been providing a 5% rebate for advance taxpayers under Section 144 (8) of the BBMP Act 2020

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) with an aim to incentivise e-khata, is contemplating a 5% rebate on property tax for owners securing the digital document. This may come into effect in the next financial year after receiving a green signal from the Deputy Chief Minister and Bengaluru Development Minister, D.K. Shivakumar, sources said.

The BBMP has been providing a 5% rebate for early birds (advance taxpayers) under Section 144 (8) of the BBMP Act 2020. This fiscal, the civic body provided a window till July 31, 2024.

The BBMP till January this year, collected ₹4,370 crore in property tax which is 83% achievement against the total stipulated target.

The BBMP, till January this year, collected ₹4,370 crore in property tax. K. MURALI KUMAR

The BBMP launched e-khata on October 1 last year after the State Revenue Department made the document mandatory for any form of land transactions. A senior BBMP official talking to *The Hindu* said, "So far, 14 lakh draft khatas have been downloaded and over 1 lakh e-khatas have been issued by the civic body. With an aim to speed-up the process, we are planning to incentivise those who take this document. We are considering providing a 5% rebate to the owners who secure the khata before June or July 31. We have yet to decide on the month."

Asked if this rebate will be in addition to the early birds, the official said, "The Revenue Department has not arrived at any decision on this. But we believe the rebate will increase the distribution of e-khata."

The BBMP is also now processing applications for obtaining new khata for owners who do not have manual khata for the properties. According to the official, so far on the dedicated website (https://bbmp.karnataka.gov.in/newkhata.) launched on January 13, 10,000 applications have been received.

The property owners are required to pay property tax from the date of registration till the date of getting the new khata and this will bring good revenue to the BBMP.

According to rough estimation, there are about 5 lakh such properties across the city. "We are carefully looking into the location of land provided by the owners to ensure that no government land is being tagged by private parties. From next week, we may commence issuing new khata to the applicants," the official said.

Home delivery

The BBMP from the next financial year may also commence the process of delivering draft e-khata to homes. While the BBMP had no such plans as the document can be easily downloaded by the owners at homes, the civic body was directed by Mr. Shivakumr to devise such a strategy. The BBMP is planning to task 600 revenue officials to implement this after April and no private agencies will be hired for the same.

Need for better footpaths takes centre stage at Namma Raste event

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Namma Raste, the three-day road safety and mobility event, drew to a close on Saturday with experts and officials emphasising the need for obstruction-free footpaths in Bengaluru and a woman-centric infrastructure approach in mobility. However, BBMP Engineer-in-Chief B.S. Prahlad was absent from the much-anticipated session.

Visitors at the exhibition at Namma Raste event in Bengaluru. K. MURALI KUMAR

In the morning, experts and officials discussed gender-responsive mobility in the city. The event was attended by G.T. Prabhakar Reddy, Chief Traffic Manager (Operations), BMTC, and Ann Jacob, Chief Urban Designer and Senior Urban Planner, DULT.

During the discussion, experts highlighted the lack of infrastructure for women at bus stops. Manju George, Senior Programme Manager, World Resources Institute (WRI), said, "We brought to the officials' notice the high footboards, which make it difficult for women carrying children to climb. Likewise, multiple micro aspects were highlighted, requiring a woman-centric approach by the government."

Ms. George noted that women engaged in domestic work often travel during non-peak hours. After completing household chores, they step out, but due to low bus frequency, they are sometimes forced to take cabs.

Mr. Reddy spoke about gender sensitisation in BMTC. Explaining the government's programme, he said, "At BMTC, we are sensitising staff on gender issues through training. BMTC buses have panic buttons for women, and pressing the button alerts Pink Hoysala."

Better pavements

Arun Pai, founder of BangaloreWalks, stressed the need for obstruction-free footpaths in the city. He said walking has become difficult due to obstructions, and a system to rate footpaths is currently missing.

Mr. Pai suggested rating footpaths based on obstacles: footpaths with inanimate objects should be rated 4, those with major obstacles rated 3, minor obstacles rated 2, and completely obstruction-free footpaths rated 1. Obstacles include human congestion, inanimate objects, and broken footpaths. He urged people to walk more on footpaths daily to pressure authorities into addressing the issue. The event drew 5,000 participants, including government officials, civil society groups, educational institutions, and corporate representatives, to explore sustainable transport solutions for the city.

Over 70 speakers and 68 government and partner organisations took part in discussions and interactive sessions, alongside students from 16 schools and colleges. Key agencies such as BMTC, BMRCL, K-Ride, DULT, and BTP highlighted their collaborative efforts to address the city's mobility challenges.

The three-day event featured several significant initiatives, including the launch of the Namma Raste Kaipidi (Handbook), immersive data visualisations, expert discussions, and capacity-building workshops. The sessions emphasised the need for integrated public transport, improved road infrastructure, and pedestrian-friendly urban planning to create a more efficient and sustainable transport network in the city.

HC directs aided schools to compensate 12 teachers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that 12 teachers were made to work for a meagre salary of ₹500 per month between 2005 and 2018, the High Court of Karnataka has directed the management of aided-schools to pay them as compensation the wages, on par with the minimum pay scale paid to regular teachers admitted to grant-in-aid, for the period they were in service.

The petitioners had served for a period ranging from two to 13 years in various schools run by the trust in Mysuru

Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav passed the order while disposing of a petition, filed way back in 2019 by K.R. Vishwanath and 11 others, who had worked as assistant teachers in various branches of T.S. Subbanna Public Schools run by T.S. Subbanna Sarvajanika Education Trust, Mysuru.

The petitioners had served for a period ranging from two years to 13 years in various schools run by the trust in Mysuru.

"...Labour rendered by the petitioner without free will at meagre wages with an expectation that their service would be admitted to grant-in-aid would fall squarely in the ambit of forced labour contemplated under Article 23 of the Constitution of India," the Court observed while pointing out that ₹500 per month paid to them was much less than even a minimum wage.

Equal pay, equal work

The Court has determined salary paid to the regular teachers as compensation to the petitioners while keeping in mind the apex court's judgement on the principle of "equal pay for equal work." "When a violation of rights conferred under Article 23 of the Constitution is established, the financial stringency cannot be a consideration to tie the hands of the court from directing the institution to compensate the petitioners adequately," the court observed while rejecting the trust's claim that it is not financially sound to pay compensation to the petitioners. The court has given three months for the trust to pay the compensation.

Passengers' association calls for affordable metro tickets, sustainable last-mile connectivity

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro and Suburban Rail Passenger's Association has submitted a memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah urging the government to implement affordable Namma Metro fares and provide an electric mode of last mile connectivity for metro users.

Prakash Mandoth, Founder- President of the association, in a release after meeting with Mr. Siddaramaiah, said, "We hope and firmly believe that the CM will take note of the strong rejections and objections to the steep fare hike." He also said the "exorbitant hike" has resulted in a huge decline in ridership, which in turn is a financial loss to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL) as people have gone back to using their private transport, while many women commuters have shifted to BMTC buses which offer free travel to them.

The association says the 'exorbitant hike' has resulted in a huge decline in ridership, which in turn is a financial loss to the BMRCL.

"In the interest of Namma Metro travellers and BMRCL, one more revision of fares is the need of the hour," he added.

Timings
BENGALURU

SUNDAY, FEB. 23		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:27
RISE	02:32	SET 13:59
MONDAY, FEB. 24		
RISE	06:38	SET 18:27
RISE	03:28	SET 14:58
TUESDAY, FEB. 25		
RISE	06:37	SET 18:28
RISE	04:21	SET 15:58

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	33	22
Mysuru	34	16
Bengaluru	33	19

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be slight cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be slight cool. Dry weather to prevail.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Morning will be cool with mist and haze. Day will be warm. Night also will be cool and hazy.

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THE HINDU
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Three held for cheating

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Pulakeshi Nagar police on Saturday arrested a gang of three from Uttar Pradesh allegedly involved in cheating senior citizens who came to withdraw money from ATMs.

The accused were identified as Nayaz, Shubhansh, and Rajeeb who were allegedly operating in the city for the last few months.

Gullible senior citizens

The accused would move around ATMs targeting gullible senior citizens coming to withdraw cash.

The accused on the pretext of offering to help them to withdraw cash would replace the card after getting to know the PIN number and escape, said the police.

Based on the complaint by a victim, the police kept a tab on ATM centres in mufti and nabbed the accused while they were moving suspiciously looking for the targets.

The accused allegedly confessed that after withdrawing the amount, they would take their families and friends on holidays and blow the money on vices.

The police have taken the accused into custody to ascertain their possible involvement other cases. Further probe is on.

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I, Nirmala Ashwath D/o Krishna Shetty, W/o Ashwathanarayana Shetty, R/@ Nirmala Nilaya, Beside Kamala Poly Clinic, 1st Cross, Gandhinagar, Sira - 572137, Tumakuru District do hereby solemnly state that, my correct name is NIRMALA ASHWATH. But, in my Aadhaar Card my name is mentioned as S.A. NIRMALA ASWATH, and in my Pan Card and Passport it is mentioned as NIRMALA ASHWATH and NIRMALA ASWATH respectively. In my Voter ID ny name is mentioned as NIRMALA SHETTY. I further state that, all these names belongs and refers to one person i.e., me only. I further state that, I will continue as NIRMALA ASHWATH for all future purpose vide affidavit dated 21.02.2025 sworn to Notary H. Wajid Ahmed.

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K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B, & B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates, #1010, 2nd Floor, 7th A Main Road, 1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034, Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
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Draft IS : Domestic Gas Stove And Built In Hob For Use With Lpg — Specification (sixth Revision)
IS 2347 : Draft Amendment No. 2 To Domestic Pressure Cooker — Specification (seventh Revision)

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Time: 10:30 a.m
Venue: Training Hall,
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Preventive measures: A medical camp organised at Badampudi in response to the bird flu outbreak.

Fresh alternatives: A fish market in Vijaywada. Bird flu has forced people to turn to fish and mutton as a precautionary measure.

Piling up: A worker collects eggs on the premises of a poultry farm in NTR district. The bid flu outbreak has caused concern regarding safety of consumption of eggs, with some districts opting to suspend their supply for mid-day meal programmes in schools. G. N. RAO

Grim response: Culled birds being taken for disposal at a poultry farm in Badampudi.

Losing stocks: A shop selling chicken at ₹120 a kg to clear the piling stocks as demand took a hit following the flu outbreak.

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BRIDEGROOMS WANTED

COSMOPOLITAN

WARM, ATTRACTIVE, 34, 157cm, cultured US–based professional (MS). Seeks kind, driven, compatible partner. Caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

Slim 29/165cm, Girl, Vegetarian. LLM (Singapore). North Indian Brahmin Family based in South Mumbai. Contact: matrimail25@gmail.com

US based, 26/167, Wheatish, BC, Tamil RC Girl Doctorate in OT. Seeks US based Professionals. Contact: 9952628665

DIVORCEE

TAMIL MUSLIM girl 36 / 170 cms mutually divorced with a child. Well educated (MS IT– London) settled in Manchester, u.k who seeks an open minded professional who is educated and with a good moral compass aged between 34–43 years old. Settled groom in UK, Canada, US , India or abroad (ideally someone from the uk is more preferrable or someone who is willing to relocate to U.K) Ct 9789047878 parents @ Chennai

DOCTOR

GROOM WANTED Rich kamma Naidu, 28yrs, MBBS, MD, Business Family, Need only Doctors 9710093999/ 9710091999

DKV Govt. Dr. 28 Aswini Mesham Father Mother Govt. Dr. Seeks Dr. Groom Only. Ph: 9443151045.

Hindu (CNB) 25yrs Doctor Bride Doing (MS) ENT Seeks Suitable Grooms. Contact: 9677199925

NAIDU, 25/160, MBBS Pursuing M.S. OBG (Ist year in Pondicherry) Kettai, Upper Middle Class in Coimbatore seeking Doctor Groom. Sub Sects No Bar. Avoid IT & Abroad. 9842650751, 9865301920.

HINDU REDDY Doctor 34Y 165cms Well Settled Family. Seeks Suitable Groom from India / Dubai / Singapore, Caste No Bar 8925640111

Mudaliar Bride DM Cardiology 33/164 Kettai Seeks Any Mudaliar Doctor Groom With MD/MS CT:8220677056

ENGINEER

Mudaliar / Vanniar 30Y/165cm Doctor MBBS, fellowship in Diabetology seeks Engineer Grooms. Ph: 94444 54188.

GOVT / QUASI GOVT

Ezhava Girl Thiruvananthapuram Karthika, 16.01.92 MSc, doing Ph.D, seeks Groom. Contact: 9497269806

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

✔ **HINDU NADAR** 25 Yrs 168 cm B.com LLB, Civil Judge Seeks bridegroom below 30 yrs from same Profession / Group 1 officer/ IAS / IPS / Bank / Govt Officer from well settled family in Tamilnadu only. Contact: 9710209761, 9840425972

MALAYALAM

AFFLUENT MALAYALEE Nair girl 28/Sep'96, 155, Karthika, CA(UK), employed in UAE, seeks alliance from professionally qualified (PG) and well settled Nair boys employed in India or abroad. Please WhatsApp +971504947205

NAIR 31.5.1979/165 MCA HSBC Hyderabad Pooyam 2 Dosham seeks professionaly qualified & employed Nair boy. Excuse Second marriage. 9176612696

NRI

DIVORCEE-NRI Looking for Bridegroom for a Girl (BTech, MBA, MFin), working in a Multinational Company in California USA, aged 39 years, legally divorced, belonged to Kerala Hindu SC with a kid. Seeking suitable alliance from open minded professionals working in California. Caste no bar. Interested parties please reply with details and a recent photograph to. b25582220@gmail.com.

Suitable match for Kashmiri Brahmin Girl, age 29, height 5 ft 8 inch, B.Tech Computer Science with Masters in Data Science. Working as data analyst in Australia and having PR visa status. Father contact email : akaul477@yahoo.com

THE HINDU
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NRI

Hindu Telugu never married 45yrs/ 168 MS USA very fair working bride seeks 45-48yrs never married working groom in USA, CNB 9866274192

TAMIL

GIRL ENG Graduate 35 years working in MNC wanted working Eng graduate bride groom from a decent literate family – 9884831257

✔ **MUSLIM FAIR slim girl 38 B. E(CSC), seeks qualified, employed, Unmarried Tamil Muslim Groom. 9444235779**

RC CHRISTIAN 33 Yrs, 165cm, B. Tech, Well settled Working in Medical concern, Chennai Based, Needs Well educated groom. Ct:9789955775

GROOM WANTED RC Christian, 27yrs, BE, MBA, Business Family in Chennai, Need Aboard Profiles Ct:9841329471

CHRISTIAN, NADAR, 29 yrs, B.E, MBA, Govt job, Rich and affluent family. Contact 8138901097.

NATHAMAR UDAYAR, catholic 31 yrs, HR professional–MNC , with null and void order looking for catholic boy below 35 yrs, premier institute or IT professional with null and void or unmarried with clean habits, WhatsAp 9443124608

MUDALIYAR 40Y/ 155 cms Divorced Govt Bank officer Chennai. seeks suitable groom from same caste. Call:7598783374

HINDU PILLAI / Mudaliar Bride 27/158cm BE., MS., (Non-IT) working in Near Atlanda seek groom working in USA prefer MS., Graduate H1B Visa with good family background. CT: 9944247275, sureshu@hotmail.com

MUDALIYAR 31/155 Uthiram/Kanni B.E TCS Australia seeks groom working in Australia or willing to settle in Australia/abroad. CNB. 9840829929

HINDU SC –AD age 27 doing MDS elite family. Seeks Groom Doctor/ Well educated professionals from reputed family. Caste no bar. 93602 71137

MUDALIAR, VEGETARIAN, Fair, 27 yrs, MS (UK) girl seeks well educated handsome groom 9677285578

MUDALIAR UTHIRAM 32/ 160 fair beautiful PG HR employed Hyderabad 36L/ pa seeks tall handsome well settled groom in Hyderabad/ Bangalore/ Chennai. Caste No bar. 7358757620

LOOKING FOR a well–educated groom based out of Bangalore, from an educated family, preferably CA, MBA or PG in Engineering from reputed institutions, Sozhia Vellala Pillai or other caste, for our daughter 29–year–old, 165 cms, very fair, meritorious, accomplished, B.Com, CA, working for a well know company in Bangalore (email ID: sumicbe93@gmail.com).

AGAMUDI MUDALIAR, Upper Middle Class, 33/165, Mirugasim, Raghu in Lagnam, PG in HR (Asst. Manager, MNC) Seeks IIM/PG Groom. 9176780777.

GROOM WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 23yrs,B.com, Elite Business Family in Chennai Contact: 9962791888

Tamil Hindu Nadar B.Tech (CS) working in Cisco, Bangalore, Rs 21 lakhs per annum , 30 /160 cm, Moolam / Dhanush seeks groom with similar background. Contact : 91768 00819

HINDU SC PR, 35/170, B.Tech (IT), working in MNC, 12L PA, upper middle class seeks educated, well settled and same community Groom. Contact: 8903670160

MUDALIAR 25, BE/MBA 165cm Good Looking,well settled family seeks suitable Groom CNB 8778514465/ 7200866345

HINDU NADAR, 26yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite business family, Seeks Suitable Groom Contact: 9841329471/ 9380791999

HINDU, SC Ayilyam 28/172 B.Pharm MBA emplyd in pharma MNC seeks professionally qualified groom employd in Chennai. Phone: 88708 89648 Email: tmpk2814@gmail.com.

SC AD/24/STAR Rohini/MBA/ (Vandavasi) Pvt Job Chennai. Expecting suitable Bridegroom. Ct. 9444573205

YADAVA, 41/164, Ph.D, M.Sc., M.Phil., SET Deemed University, 540000 p.a, Chennai. Ct: Murugan 9384447563

MUDALIYAR FAIR Vegetarian 35 yrs BE working in MNC Looking for a suitable groom ph:9952099600

MD (PATHOLOGY), DCH, 39yrs, Divorcee without child, working in a private hospital, seeks compatible & affectionate Groom. CNB Ct: 9176289180

TAMIL

CASTE NO Bar, 31yrs, BE, Elite business family in Chennai, Seeks Suitable Groom Ct:9710093999/ 9710091999

GROOM WANTED Hindu Nadar,24yrs, MBA, Elite Business Family in Chennai Contact: 9380791999 / 9841329471

SC AD 25/B.E (ECE)F.S.D.(MNC) 45,000p.m.Well Settled Family/ Seeks Bridegroom. Ph.9444993417 / 7397674481

DKV/SC MAY 1994/167cm Fair BE Parents Hindu/CSI, Seeks Groom Dr./ Er. Govt Employee. 8056143638

HINDU SC Pr 38 fair M.Sc,M.Phil,B.Ed Govt PG Teacher 60000/-pm divorce no child seeks same caste groom below 41 with govt job Ct: 97900 49517.

HINDU CA Auditor 32/158 cm MBC Fair legally divorced CNB Chennai seeks suitable groom 9600055160

HINDU, KALLAR, 23 yrs, B.Sc, Business at Madurai.Income 1crore. Ct 8138901294.

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 31 yrs, MBBS, Doctor at Chennai , Income 9 Lakhs. Ct 8138901337.

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, 28 yrs, MA, Teacher at Chennai, upper middle class family. Ct 8138901189.-

HINDU, NAIDU, 25 yrs, B.E, Business at Coimbatore, Income 20 Lakhs. Ct 8138900312

MUDALIAR (27/165), Beautiful, BE/IT Professional, Bangalore. Seeking fair groom from I.T. Background only, Sub-caste no bar. Contact: 9444979565/ 6369192021, Email: sivanesan1955@gmail.com

VISHWAKARMA MD final, 1996/168/70; TN govt MRB selected, posting awaited,seeks suitable groom WA 9444211648

Adidravidar 28/160 Hastham B.E, B.Ed seeks professionally qualified settled groom,same caste.9789668845

GROOM WANTED, Caste No Bar, 30yrs, MBBS, MS, Elite business family in Chennai. Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 24 yrs, MA, Studying at Chennai, upper middle class family. Contact 9048444840.

HINDU, CHETTIYAR, 24 yrs, B.Arch, IT proffesional at Madurai, Upper middle class family. Ct 8138900470.

HINDU, AGAMUDAIYAR, 23yrs, M.Tech at Kanchipuram, Upper middle class family. Contact 8138900557.

HINDU NADAR 29yrs, BE, Govt staff, well educated family, Seeks Suitable Groom Cont:9380791999/ 9841329471

AGAMUDAIYAR/ MUDALIAR, Dr,M.B.B.S 24yr Fair, 5'4,Non–Veg Preferably Dr,Bridegroom. 8754548810/ 9444333992

SUITABLE BRIDE Groom Required for Mudaliar girl, MA, 25/163, Nuclear Family. Ct: 98400 55592

HINDU NADAR 2002 / 161cm Uthiradam Magara rasi, Raagu dhosam M. Tech, seeks suitable same caste groom earning above 50kpm. Ct: 9444970305

VANNIYAR, BDS, 31, Revathi, Employed, Middle class family, Groom from same community needed. 9840961251

IYER VADAMA Kousiga Thiruvonam MS(O&G) Final 26/172 fair/slim Seeks DM/MCh/MD/ MS 27-29 yrs teetotaller boy strictly same sect 9080638723 / 8778549521

BRAHMIN, 25/167 Fair, Chennai, Madhwa, Shaunaka Gothram, Poosam, PG in Economics, Qualified in General Insurance, Employed in Financial Services Industry, Seeks Suitable Brahmin Groom Ct : 98400 59297

LOOKING FOR a Professionally Qualified well settled Groom with clean habits and from a status family for a Kerala Iyer Girl, aged 26/5.1 Ht, Hastham Nakshatram, Sadamarshana Gothram, Master's Qualification (UK), willing to settle in India / Abroad. Please contact @ +919845231891

GROOM WANTED
MUDALIAR, 24 yrs, 165 cms, B.Arch, Lives in Chennai, Father is a Businessman, Upper middle class family. Looking for a like minded match from the same community.
Contact: 9080629216

SC/AD 37yrs, BE, Sr. Software Engineer TCS Chennai, seeks Bride Groom. Contact: 99521 47216

Arunthathiyar(Pittakaru) girl age 25, 168cm Moolam Ph.D, seeks suitable groom,caste no bar,Cbe. 94871 62456

Hindu SC/AD, 36yrs, Barani, Mesham B.E., M.B.A, SBI Manager, Chennai. Seeks suitable Groom Ct: 8056104103

HINDU VALLUVAR 41/158cm Fair Girl MBA Working in MNC seeks Suitable Groom. caste no bar. Ph: 9886234181.

TAMIL

CORPORATE
Prof., Bengaluru
34/165, Chettiar
Smart Fair Slim Girl
PGDM (IIM - C)
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BUSINESS/CORPORATE
High/Elite Income Group/CNB
Call / WhatsApp :
83006 65039

Hindu, Doctor Bride(MS) 25yrs Seeks suitable Grooms (preferably chevvai Grooms) Ct: 9677199925

TELUGU

NAIDU 32/5'5, Sadhyam Kumbham, BE, Fair, Good looking Chennai Girl for remarriage short lived, Seeks Groom from India/ Abroad, Caste No Bar Contact: 8056093838/ 9500009694

✔ **Naidu Girl.** 27/160. Very fair & beautiful. No Siblings. Studied Luxury Brand Management in UK. Boy settled in and around NY USA is preferred. WhatsApp +919894715575

BRIDES WANTED

ADVOCATE

BRAHMIN Athreya Gotra former HC Judge Son Vegetarian 31yrs/ 180cm/ affluent handsome Advocate at SC Delhi seeks alliance from any Brahmin Community. Watsapp 9846173871

COSMOPOLITAN

Christian Tamil / Malayali parents seek bride for son 30 yrs, BSc Computers, wk in ITES. Contact: 9573919489

✔ **ROMAN CATHOLIC/30 yrs /180 cm /B.E (Mech), M.S (Product Design)/ working in Sweden 3+ yrs. Seeks Post Graduate/ Professionally Qualified Bride, 25–29 yrs / preferably based/ working in the EU/ willing to relocate to Sweden. Contact:6381070174 Email: sjm.val7@gmail.com.**

HANDSOME, SUCCESSFUL, 30, 175cm, UK–educated professional. Seeks attractive, compatible bride. Religion & caste no bar. Call/WA 9345634365.

LINGAYAT WIDOWER 46yr Businessman, Bengaluru Based, 8 yr girl, asset 30cr, CNB, Broker sorry – 6362647286

MALAYALAM

MARTHOMA CHRISTIAN brought up in Kolkata, MCom, MBA, 39/173, Swiss Bank Officer in Poland seeks alliance with prospective bride. Contact: +919074039043.

THIYA/ EZHAVA 31/170 BE IT, HR & business seeks bride from Chennai, Kerala or Bangalore. 9551500642

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN NADAR, Doctor, Divorcee 36yrs/178cm, MBBS, Dip in Cardiology better earning lives in Nagercoil seeks qualified/ Divorced Bride. 9003983230

CHRISTIAN 39 years Eng graduate well settled at Chennai working MNC wanted graduate girl from decent literate christian family – 9445931257

WIDOWER WITH 4yr daughter, 42/180, MBA, IT, 90K seek RC/AD Widow (without child)/Unmarried Bride from Coimbatore/nearby city. CT: 8300369639

RC–NADAR 38YRS B.Tech,IT Manager,Rs.27LPA, Chennai seeks suitable Qualified Bride. 9003133546/7338790530

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ELITE BRIDES WANTED

KAMMA, 31, 183 cms, CA, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

MUDALIYAR, 24, 180 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Vellore. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from community from Tamil Nadu Contact: 6366448343

NADAR, 33, 179 cms, MBA, Businessman. Lives in Chennai. Family is financially well off. Looking for a suitable match from similar community from Tamil Nadu. Contact: 6366448343

REDDIYAR, 26, 175 cms, MS, Management Professional. Lives in USA. Father is a Businessman. Family is affluent. Looking for a like minded match. Contact: 6366448344

ELITE GROOMS WANTED

CHETTIYAR, 29, 165 cms, Entrepreneur, ME. Lives in Coimbatore. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from similar community. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 26, 170 cms, PG Doctor. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Businessman. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any Naidu. Contact: 6366448344

NAIDU, 31, 160 cms, M.S in Eng, Working Professional. Lives in Chennai. Father is a Working Professional. Family is financially well off. Looking for suitable Tamil & Telugu match from Chennai. Contact: 6366448343

INTERCASTE, 29, 170 cms, IT Profession. Family is financially well off. Looking for a like minded match from any community from India. Contact: 6366448343

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TELUGU

MUTHU RAJA Naidu 25/173CM M.Sc, MBA Pursuing Seeking Settled, Good Job, Decent Family Send BHP 9444131113

RICH NAIDU, 23yrs, BE, Elite business family in Chennai. Seeks Suitable Groom. Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

GROOM WANTED Rich Naidu,32yrs,B.Tech,MBA Divorce,Very Affluent family CHEN,No issue.9710093999/ 9710091999

CHENNAI, BALIJA Naidu girl from upper middle class family, 26 yrs / 152cm / MCA working in Bangalore seeks well educated well settled groom. Contact:87542 29161.

CAVARA NAIDU Thiruvonam / Magaram 28/165, B.Tech, IT, Bangalore, seeks groom. Cont: 9790548816

BALIJA NAIDU 24/162 cm CA, WKg @ Bank 13.2 LPA Seeks Grooms CA / MBA / M.Tech /B.Tech SWE.Ct : 9941342140

NAIDU 26/165 Beautiful B.Tec, MS, SWE Amazon USA,80000.USD. PA,Affluent Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

WANTED NAIDU Groom, Settled in USA, for a Good Looking Girl, only Daughter, 22 years, 155cm Employed in Washington State , Permanent Resident. Preferred Upper Middle Class Family. Contact: +1 650 933 7006, anjanbcb@gmail.com

DOCTOR M.D., Naidu, 1991/165cms Simam, Magam, seeks suitable Groom M.S/MD/CA/IAS& IPS.Ct: 8072214843

URDU

MUSLIM GIRL, Age 33, working Singaporean, seeks suitable Groom age between 34 to 36, Good Engrg Deg, Overseas & Local Industry Experience. Willing to relocate to Singapore. Whatsapp details to +6592720042

PARENTS OF Urdu Muslim Girl 31yrs/ 154cm divorcee with a kid, well educated working in Chennai, seeks open minded, good looking well settled groom, between 32–37yrs from Tamilnadu or Abroad. Ct: 9789980164.

COSMOPOLITAN

HINDU BENGALI 1993, 170 cm, PhD from IIT, Assistant Professor in NIT in South. Residence Guwahati. Looking for a professionally qualified girl. Only guardians call 9435531470

SUITABLE GIRL for our handsome son Sofware Engineer Hindu US born 1997, 175cm. Mail: rs123home@gmail.com

HINDU NADAR Divorced 46 yrs, 176 cm Thulam–Swathi, Engineer, looking for Bride below 40. Caste No Bar. Contact 9840066045.

DIVORCEE

BRIDE FOR 57 yrs Iyer Phd divorcee advocate well placed caste no bar CT.9176425933

DOCTOR

VEGETARIAN FAMILY, Pillai – Karkathar, 12th December 1994, Revathy/ Meenam, Asst–Professor MS (General Surgeon), having Own Clinic, Chennai, Smart well settled family, Expectation PG Doctor Vegetarian, Family Oriented Girl. Contact: 9841039515

HINDU THEVAR, 27 years boy, MBBS Doctor. Studying in P.G./ Seeks MBBS Lady Doctor. Cont: 9486861866

MDS (Prosthodontist) Age 27, Height 152 cm Uthiratathi, Meenam, Implant specialist- consultant for various leading clinics in South India, running successfully his own dental clinic in Chennai, seeks same profession bride, Chettiyar community. Phone: 9840793361

HINDI

1985/175CM, 50 Lakhs PA, Never Married, Bangalore. WhatsApp: 96290 12248

IAS / ALLIED SERVICES

TELUGU KAPU Groom Invites alliances from South India. 6 feet 1 inch, 93 born, B.Tech(IIT Kanpur), Group A(Class I) Gazetted Officer in Central Govt, Mumbai. Contact: +91 9453045661.

TAMIL

CHRISTIAN, RC, 33 Yrs, BE, MS, Engineer at Banglore, Income 50 Lakhs. Ct 8138901181.

CHRISTIAN, CATHOLIC, 41 yrs, Remarriage, B.E, Private employee at Chennai, Upper middle class family. Contact 7356483111

RC CHRISTIAN, 42yrs/170, BE. Software Engineer, never married, works for mnc, Chennai. CT– 9500188067

AGAMUDAIYAR, UTHIRAM/KANNI 35/180, BE, HRM, Job at Canada, Canadian Citizen, Seeks BE,Nursing, any degree bride.CNB. Ct:9442993042

TELUGU CHETTIAR Unmarried 1983/ 180cm Btech, Mba Manager 14 lakhs/ PA. Seeks suitable Telugu/Tamil alliance. Ct 9444559768/04479609970

BE, MBA, 42, Cyber Security, IT, Chennai Tamil Boy seeks Good Character Girl For His 1st Mrg : 9742033888

SCAD, 53/ M.Sc First Marriage 50k/ pm seeks suitable Bride, Divorcee/ Widow Excuse Cast No bar. 7305856072

TAMIL BRAHMIN Iyer, handsome male, 46yrs/170cms / Sadhayam, MCA, employed in Chennai, belongs to a well settled family seeks a warm hearted, Educated, good looking girl from a good family background, employment is optional/not a must. Ct: 9500995343

CHETTIYAR 29, MCA, Accounts Manager (Pvt), Sal:30,000/–Pm, Viruchigam seeks suitable bride in same Caste. 9786471828, 7373637324, 9344066373.

MUDALIAR DIVORCEE, PhD, Professor Pvt Eng.Collage, age 51, Magaram Seeks educated unmarried/ widow/ Divorcee without child from FC/OBC (40–45yrs) No Brokers Contact 9150799959

BRIDE WANTED Rich Mudaliyar, 26yrs, BE, MBA, Elite business family in Chennai Cont:9710093999/ 9710091999

VANNIYAR 49 Yrs B.Sc.,(Biology), M.A.,(Psychology) working Healthcare Counselor US Citizen looking for unmarried CNB 39 to 42 Yrs Bride. Email: padmapalanisamy@gmail.com CT: 73958-81522.

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED for Hindu Nadar, 37yrs, BE, Divorcee, Elite Business Family Contact: 9380791999 / 9841329471

MUDHALIYAR, CA, Age–40, Never married, Star: Kettai, Own House, Well settled. Sub Caste ok. 9677622641

ADIDRAVIDAR AGE 28, ME Pvt Salary 75000 / Well Settled Wants Suitable Bride. 8122289871 / 9444139323

VANNIYAKULA KSHATRIA /30yrs 171cm Revathy Meenam handsome boy / BE / working in MNC, Chennai /18 LPA. Settled Chennai. Seeks educated, working, good looking bride from decent Family. Ct: 9444141130 / 9445132233

GROOM AGE 55 Well Settled. Bride Wanted Age Above 50 Need Comfortable Life Partner Whats App: 9884671173

IYER ASHTASAHAS Kasyb 39/180 / barani / Two masters (India & US), PhD diss (Germny) Mutual divorcee Bride qualifd from Good family. Divorcee / Widow excuse. Call– 9444551216, 044 26861097. ganesanv0@gmail.com.

MD DOCTOR 40 Chennai,Own Clinic, Reddiyar, Mutual divorcee. Seeks Bride any OC,BC caste. 8124570336

MUDALIYAR AGE 50, Msc, Divorcee / No Issue, Own Business. Seeks Suitable Bride.Caste Nobar.Ct: 9841125556

MUDALIAR/ PILLAI, DOB:29.05.93/ 183cm, Pooram/Simmam, BE,MS (USA) N.Veg, Working in USA, Seeks suitable bride (25–29yr) Studying/Working in USA, Caste no bar Mother: 9003713942

NAIDU 33 Work HR Operations Seeks Engrs /CA/ Drs Employed Call: 9498072042 / 9444753417

TAMIL (HINDU-BC) Boy 41. MBA. Unmarried. No Bad habit. I am fully consent to HOUSE GROOM & GOOD SON in Girl family & I will do the duty of Girl parents as my parents. I Accept 2nd marriage, & all Religion, All caste, South Inds ok. Brokers Pls Avoid . Ph : 91235-89257.

VAANIYAR CHETTY -Visagam 39/176 MS (Sweden) working in Sweden 60LPA, (Swedish Citizen & OCI) Seeks BE/ MS/ MBA/ MCA/ CA/ PhD Prof. Bride CNB,Contact :98404 29799

GAVARA NAIDU 1996 born 170 Cms M.Com, CA Final Chennai seeks educated Bride Ct.9444049457

CHETTIAR 43YRS/170CM, Unmarried. Well–settled, Head of Marketing in London, with Strong Values & Good Character. Seeking Educated Bride (30–38yrs) Caste no bar. Ph: 8608632946

MUDALIAR M.COM 47 1st Marriage 20Lakh PA Own House Chennai Seeks Mudaliar 1st Marriage Girl Ct 9444001582

AGAMUDAIYAR, CHITHIRAI/KANNI, 27/ 178, Job in US (NVIDIA), seeks employed bride in US, decent family. Ph. 9445109884

AGE 47, 2nd Marriage, Working in Hospital at Qatar. Suitable Bride who willing to come Qatar. Ct: +97433840227 / 9498328263

SAIVA Pillai CNB M.Sc MBA 4Lakh / monthly Company owner 20 crores Property only son 173 cm Visagam 47yrs unmarried. W.app-9841553677

PURE VEGETARIAN Male – 46 M.A Government M.S 1.20 L Vanniyar – Seeks Vegetarian Bride From any Caste – CNB Ct : 8903747433 / 9626370329

MUDALIYAR (VEG) Moolam 33 M.Tech Now in UK 5 LPM Seeks Girl willing to move to UK. 9952439524

48, TAMIL, BC, Hindu Mudaliyar/Pillaimar, Fair, Handsome, Affluent, VVIP, Remarriage, No encumbrance, Chennai, Caste No Bar seeks good looking VIP. Affluent & Decent Bride. Politicians/Bureaucrats/ Businessmen/Industrialists/Creamy layer Family Brides alone contact. Ct:9941200392.

HINDU, SC(AD) MBBS 32/170, seeks alliance. 9952908585

ALLIANCE INVITED from Mudaliar Parents of Bride for my Son now in Chennai but working in US,Age 32, well to do Status 9840456644, 9840636662

HINDU NADAR, 41yrs/180cm, Analyst Programmer in Australia, Divorcee (no Issues) seeks CNB, good-looking well-qualified professional in the soft-ware field. Ct: 9902047595.

BRIDE WANTED CNB ,29yrs, MBBS, MD, Well Educated Family background. Need doctor. 9710093999 /9710091999

AUDITOR/ 45 Chennai/ 30 L p.a Seeks Any Vegetarian Hindu Girl. Contact : 9884398109

Chennai, Mudlr Cast No br, PhD, innoct divorcee, 41yrs.GM Chess Govt 2 Lac/mth.Hindu Edu Girl: 9884171419

HINDU NADAR Age 31 / 170 cms BE MSc VISCOM Senior Designer MNC Bangalore, Seeks Vegetarian Bride, Caste No Bar. Ct : annapoorna53@gmail.com , 9496601948

TAMIL

HINDU, MUDALIYAR, 41 yrs, Divorced, MS , Management professional at Chennai, Income 1 Crore. Ct 8138900498.

HINDU, CASTE No Bar, 34 Yrs, B.E, Engineer at Hyderabad, Income 20 Lakhs. Ct 8138900652.

1ST SON:SEP1989BORN,B.COM,MBA–MKTG Executive, 2nd Son:1991Born BE, Engg– Bangalore.WellSettled Muslim converted to Hindu family(BC), seek educated brides from FC,BC, MBC hindu–intercaste/relig.Ct:+91 9976755548.

KONGU GOUNDER 49/172cm Bank work 70k pm divo/widow any caste age ok broker no whatsapp or cl 9787604752

BALIJA GAVARA / 42 / 175 / Fair / BE / SWE MNC / 2L PM / Chennai / Re–marriage / Caste No Bar/ 9841529042

BRIDE WANTED Kongu vellala Gounder, 28yrs, BE, MS, Very Rich Family (Business) Ct: 9710093999/ 9710091999

HINDU GRAMANI / Nadar Age 34, 175cm B.E – EEE, MBA – PGPM Great Lakes, Remarriage No Child, Manager in Amazon, Bangalore, 32 LPA, Looking for a suitable bride.Caste no bar. ramamurthy0803@gmail.com / 9940354889

Hindu, Brahmin, 29 yrs, B.Tech, Web developer at Bangalore, family running a business. Contact 8138900547.

Hindu, Pillai, 29 Yrs, M.tech, IT Professional at Australia, Income 1Crore. Contact 8138901171

HINDU, PILLAI, 35 Yrs, MS, MBA, Managing Director at Germany, Income 1Crore. Contact 8138900412.

VANNIYAKULAKSHATRIYA, 32YRS, 175cm, B.Tech, employed in MNC, Bangalore, 22L/pa handsome, Chitirai–1 Kanni seeks educated, working, good looking bride from decent traditional family. Ct: 9442010387/ 9094396541

MADHWA BRAHMIN ,Bhardwaja gothram, Hastham,Nov 1992/162cm,Temple archagar in Tiruppur, Seeks suitable Brahmin girl,widow or divorce also ok. Ct: 8056942095

✔ **Tamiliyer/ Iyengar** Software eng. @ Bangalore 6ft / 32 yrs chitharai / bharadwaj / Doctor parents (intercaste). Ct. 9300502792.

HINDU, BRAHMIN, 29 Yrs, MBA, Business at Madurai, Business class family. Ct 8138900553.

IYER B.Charanam / Koundinyam / Avittam 1988 B.Com / MBA working in Chennai seeks working bride. 9443132445.

IYER TAMIL Divorcee 50yrs SWE MNC Chennai Seeks Minimum Graduate without Issues. Caste No Bar. 9841942915

WANTED BRIDE
BE, MBA., (NRI)
Fair & Smart Groom
Bharani Natchatram
Australian Citizen
6 Lakhs Per Month
Seeks Bride
75503 77065

Seeking BRIDE for Bridegroom
Hindu, Kulalar/Udayaar, 44 yrs, 170 cms, M.Tech, IT professional, Caste open for discussion.
CT: 93842 76056

BRIDE WANTED
Doctor, M.Ch., 35 yrs, 168 cm, Working in a reputed Pvt. Hospital in Chennai. Uthiram, Clean habits, Divorced, affluent family, Sengunthar Mudaliar (CNB) seeking alliance from cultured, educated and god fearing unmarried or divorced girls of below 32 years with decent family background.
Ct: 94444 59841 / 95515 28622

HINDU NADAR, **M.Tech (IIT), Ph.D (IIT), Nov 1981, Divorcee, Native Madurai, Working in MNC Bangalore, 30LPA, Seeks Hindu Nadar Bride.**
✆ 98431 49380

Hindu, SC, AD Tamizh, Age 30yrs, Central Govt Job at Bangalore. Salary 40,000/Pm, seeks Fair and Good Looking Bride and also well settled Contact: 93426 56349

TAMIL

BRIDE WANTED
MS (CSE) 29/180, fair, good-looking, high-earning tech professional with established career and strong financial background based in Chennai, from a well settled, affluent Agamudayar family.
Seeking an educated, and family-oriented bride (below 28 yrs) from a good family background (CNB).
+91 78458 10913

KAMMA NAIDU 34/177cm, BE (Civil), Fair, Divorce, only one son, Good looking Well Settled, Seeks Same Caste Bride in Tamilnadu. Ct: 96001 39539.

MUDALIAR Boy 30/160 BE MS (CSE) SWE USA 165,000 USD H1B VISA seek Bride working/ studying in USA Contact: 9449869621 / 9962147421.

HINDU, VANNIYAR, 33 yr old, B.Tech, native of Puducherry, working in Bangalore (around 30LPA) I Settled family seeking well educated and qualified bride, Call: 9442992054

MUDHALIYA BOY, 31/ 172/ BE
No demand, Seeks Bride. Contact - 8072997321

FAIR GUY, 28yrs, Vellalar, CTS, Chennai. Seeking RC Christian BC/OC bride. WhatsApp: 9894289459.

BE IIT 188cm Height Mudaliar born Nov 91 MNC Hyderabad Sal 91 lacs seeks Bride from same Allied castes,Tamil, Telugu Cont: 7382620365

TELUGU

BALIJA NAIDU Chitirai 28 B.Tech Rly catering Licensee, above 15L/ Pa. 9445367047/ 7397018560/ 9994449263

USA & Based National. Balija Naidu, 24, IT, Bharani Seeks Educated From Well Settled Family. 9444032636

TALL, HANDSOME, 37/ 180 cm, unmarried, vegetarian, PG Diploma in Marketing(Canada), affluent, Balija Naidu, CNB, seeks brides wiling to relocate to Canada 8148809055

BALIJA NAIDU, Age 38, Bharani Star, M.E, Own Computer IT Outlet. Seeks Degree Completed Bride. 9894473236

✔ **NAIDU OR South Indian Cultured Upper Middle Class Hindu Family: Seeking a suitable Bride for a handsome Doctor (40 years) 180 cm from a reputed, upper-middle-Class, traditional South Indian Hindu family, Early education at Sri Sathya Sai School & College, Prashanti Nilayam, now practicing in Bangalore, contact number 9845048816 via WhatsApp.**

TELUGU VANNAR, Age 40, Kanni, Astham, MBA, Manager in MNC, 20Lac PA. Any Telugu. Ct:9894777505

NAIDU 28/180 Very Handsome BE,MS SWE,AWS USA,130000. USD.PA, Aflunet Family, CNB. 9043991629, 9043987029

KAMMA NAIDU 28/173 BE MS 65kg Wheatish/ Business/Chennai seeks educated from well settled fly; 9840784555

Reddy: 34/180cm Handsome Boy with Fair Complexion, Director in own Industry, own house in Tirupati looking for a normal educated Bride (No background Required) Phone: 9989759279, 9553561616

URDU

SM PARENTS well settled in Chennai having logistics Business looking for suitable match for their only son B.Com 27/ 173cm Very fair from well settled religious family. Send details what's App No 9840199374

URDU, SYED, Muslim handsome M.D.Doctor 28/167 seeks fair, religious M.D/M.S/MBBS Bride. Ct.9952828485

Urdu Muslim (Sheik) Parents seeks Well Educated, Family oriented, Fair Bride for their Fair & Handsome Son-28 Yrs, 178cms, BE, Officer-Bank of India, Chennai Cont: 9080617146

BRIDES & GROOMS WANTED

TAMIL

TTD DEVOTEE Rich Parents Seeks Alliance–Daughter 33/153cm & Son 36/ 168cm Educated No Expectation/Status. Remarriage Hindus Pref. 9444009019

MARRIAGE BUREAU

US UK Canada All Caste Religion 1st Marriage Remarriage. Ct:8248757840

‘Chamundi Hills fire deliberately kindled’

Nobody has been taken into custody so far, says Forest Department

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Forest Department has concluded that Friday’s raging fire, which destroyed a large swathe of scrub forests at Chamundi Hills, was deliberately kindled. A complaint has been registered with the police.

However, it maintained that nobody has been taken into custody or questioned so far though they are monitoring a few individuals, including cattle grazers.

Addressing presspersons here on Saturday, Deputy Conservator of Forests (Territorial) K.N. Basavaraj, said, “The fire was doused on Friday between 11 p.m. and 11.30 p.m. Some 35 acres were destroyed by the fire which was calculated through a dedicated scientific measurement tool.”

As there was a possibility of wind stoking fresh fire from the ambers, three teams, which also included a fire tender and a quick response vehicle, remained vigil and camped there till Saturday morning, said Mr. Basavaraj. In addition, a drone survey was carried out at 11 a.m. to detect if there was fresh smoke emanating from any part of the reserve forest but there was none, he said.

The fire at Chamundi Hills on Friday razed a vast tract of ground vegetation. M.A. SRIRAM

In Chamundi Hills, nearly 68 km of fire lines - a bald patch of land created by controlled burning along demarcated boundaries of a beat, range, etc., - have been maintained. In the event of a fire, the fire lines help retard its progress. But the fire was stoked beyond the fire lines and deep within the reserve forest and hence it has been concluded that it is the handiwork of individuals, said Mr. Basavaraj. The fire was also fanned by wind whose speed was 30 mph on Friday while the peak daytime temperature was 34 degrees Celsius.

As therewas no major fire at Chamundi Hills in the last few years, there was a build-up of “fuel load” by way of additional growth of dry and scrub vegetation, which added to the intensity of what was essentially a ground fire, he said. The last major fire in Chamundi Hills was reported in 2019-20 when 70 acres of forest was burnt. During 2022-23, only 2.5 acres of forest was damaged due to fire.

As Chamundi Hills has four gates and is frequented by thousands of pilgrims and tourists daily, monitoring them round the clock is not feasible. Hence, the Forest Department will discuss with the Deputy Commissioner, the possibility of closing three gates from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. during summer, as a precautionary measure. At present, these gates are closed from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m. said Mr. Basavaraj.

Special train to run nine additional trips

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

To manage the surge in passenger traffic, East Coast Railway has announced an extension of the weekly special train services between Bhubaneswar and Yeswantpur. There will be nine additional trips.

Running schedule

As per the announcement by the South Western Railway, 02811 Bhubaneswar-Yeswantpur Special will depart from Bhubaneswar at 7.15 p.m. on March 1, 8, 15, 22, and 29 and April 5, 12, 19, and 26.

It will arrive at Yeswantpur station at 12.15 a.m. on the third day. In the return direction, 02812 Yeswantpur-Bhubaneswar Express will depart from Yeswantpur at 4.30 a.m. on March 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31, and April 7, 14, 21, and 28.

It will reach Bhubaneswar at 6 a.m. the following day.

M.S. Ramaiah University hosts ‘Anveshan 2025’

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

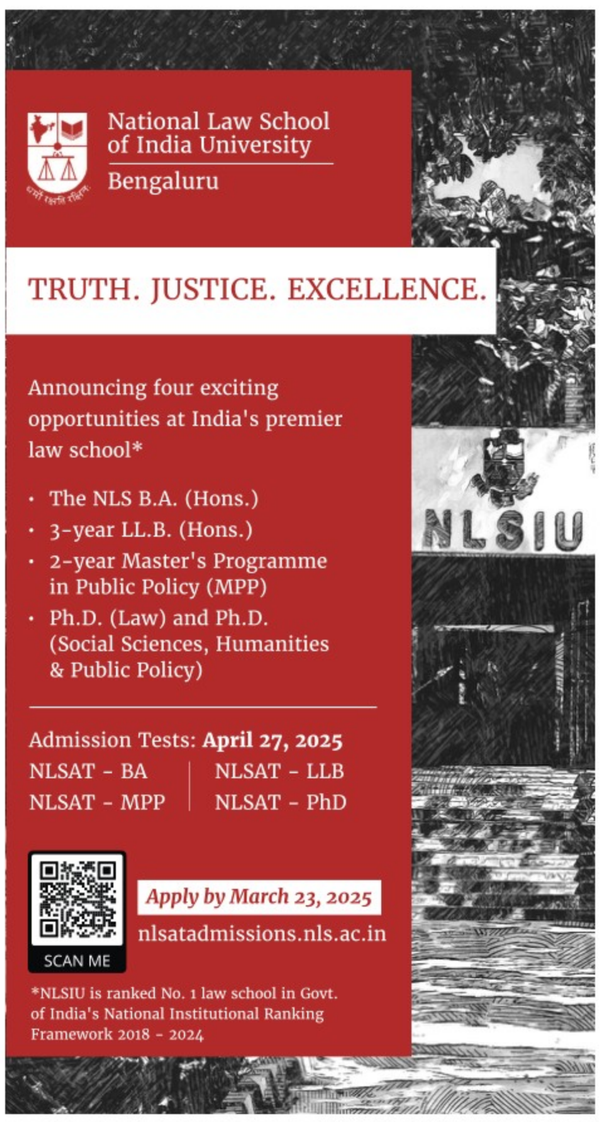
M.S. Ramaiah University of Applied Sciences (RUAS) hosted the South Zone Student Research Convention, *Anveshan 2025*, in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). On February 20, nearly 350 students from across Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu presented 130 projects. Participants showcased innovative ideas in various sectors.Chief guest IT-BT Minister Priyank Kharge inaugurated the event and emphasised the need for students to contribute to country’s growth.

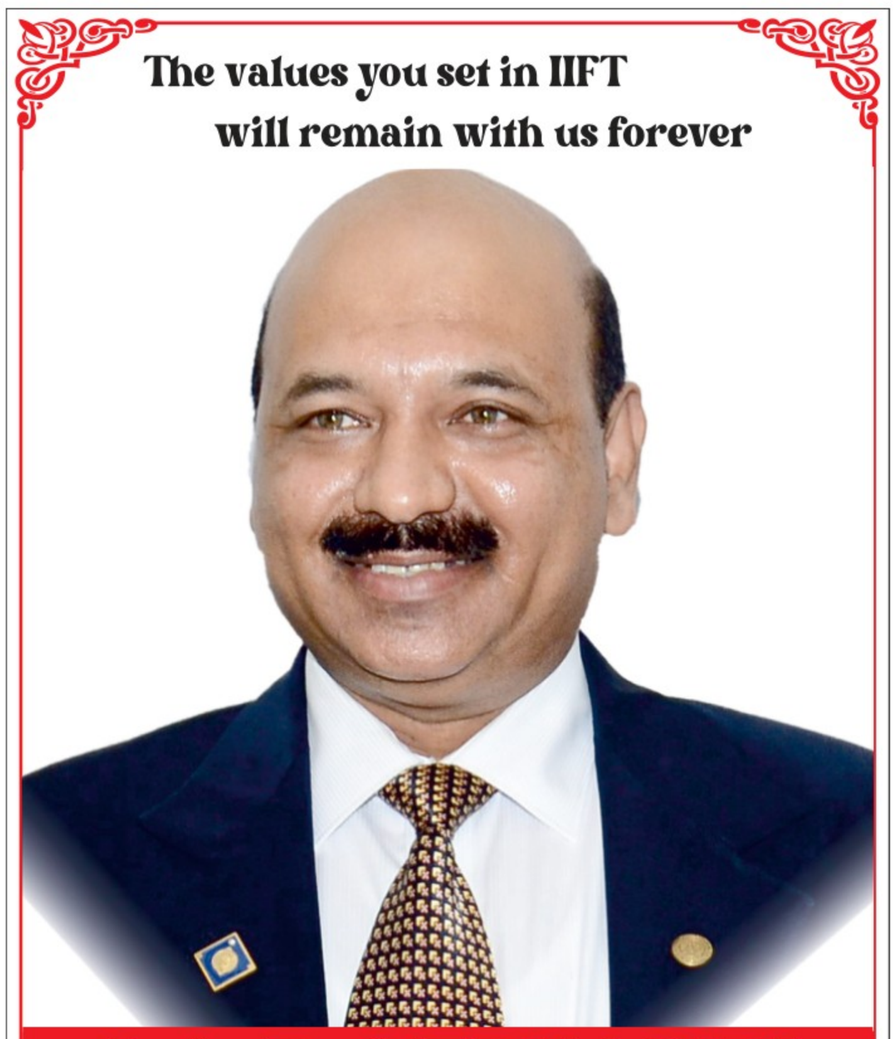
Three held for stealing wheels from parked cars

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Jayanagar police arrested three persons, including a college student, who were allegedly stealing the wheels of cars parked on the roadside. The accused have been identified as Prem Kumar, a college student, Pritham, working in a hotel, and Syed Salman, a mechanic.

Based on a complaint filed by a businessman on February 9, the Jayanagar police analysed CCTV camera footage from in and around the BDA complex before zeroing in on the accused. The police have recovered seven wheels of different cars, 18 tyres, and four scooters, which the accused had allegedly stolen in the last few months and sold to the tyre shops in J. C. Road and Banashankari.





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कार्यालय अधिशासी अभियंता, जल संसाधन खण्ड, उदयपुर (राज.)

क्रमांकः अ.अ/लेखा/2024-25/577 दिनांकः 13.02.2025

ई-निविदा सूचना संख्या वर्ष 2024-25

निम्नलिखित निर्माण कार्यों हेतु इच्छुक बोलीदाताओं से दिनांक 10.03.2025 को सायं 6.00 बजे तक निविदा आमन्त्रित की जाती है।

क्रम संख्या	कार्य का नाम	राशि रुपये (लाखों में)
1	Construction of retaining wall cum water Harvesting Structure at Pratap Gourav Kendra Udaipur	263.94

निविदा में वर्णित कार्य से सम्बन्धित विवरण व अन्य शर्तें वेबसाईट http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in एवं www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd पर देखी जा सकती है।

DIPR/C/2168/2025 अधिशासी अभियन्ता जल संसाधन खण्ड, उदयपुर

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is hereby notified that, my clients have agreed to purchase the Schedule property from its owner **SRI.DINESH KUMAR GULLECHA** S/o late Puhkraj, residing at: No.6, 3rd Floor, Karnic Road, Above Exide Battery Show Room, Basavanagudi, Bangalore – 560004.

Apart from the said owner, if any other person/s have any manner of claim or interest or demand over the Schedule property or any part thereof by way of sale, lease, mortgage, gift, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, pre-emption or otherwise howsoever, they are hereby requested to file their objection/s (along with the photocopies of the documents on which they are relying), with the undersigned within **14 days** from the date of publication of this notice. Objection/s received thereafter will not be binding on my clients.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the residential property bearing Municipal No.195 (PID No.46-3-195) and No.195/1 (PID No.46-3-195/1), measuring East to West 30ft and North to South 65ft, together with a building thereon, situated at Albert Victor Road, Chamarajpete, Bangalore and bounded on:

East by : Property of Ramanna
West by : Property of Kalyanibayamma
North by : Property of Mayanna
South by : Albert Victor Road.

Sd/- S.F. GOUTAM CHAND, Advocate,
GOUTAM ASSOCIATES,
No.60, 2nd Floor, Old Kanakapura Road,
Basavanagudi, Bengaluru - 560004

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder

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SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Palakkad Division
E-Tender Notice No. PGT/OT/04/2025 dated 21.02.2025

For and on behalf of the President of India, Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-ordination/ Southern Railway/Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of Work	Approx. cash value ₹ in lakhs	Bid Security Amount ₹	Tender closing date on 15.00 hrs	Completion Period in months
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1	Palakkad Division - Sr. Divisional Engineer/West Jurisdiction, Redevelopment of Feroke Railway Station under ABSS - PHASE II Works.	235.86	2,67,900/-	14.03.2025	Four

1. All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.
2. Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.
3. For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site **"http://www.ireps.gov.in"**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Deputy Chief Engineer/Gati Shakti/ Southern Railway/Palakkad

Govt. of Jharkhand
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department, Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002
e-mail--- eercdapfsdran-jhr@nic.in

e-Procurement very Short Notice (2nd Call)

e-Tender Reference No .-RCD/FSD /AP/ RAN/**59**/24-25 Dated **20.02.2025**

1-	Name of Work	Consultancy Services for Preparation of Detailed Project Report for Kanke road (Ram Mandir) via Chief justice residence , sidhu Kanhu park, CM residence gate, Adivasi hostel to ATI Chowk & from Sidhu Kanhu Park via Ranchi College Ground to state Guest House road School inculding replacement of culverts and bridges, proposal for new culverts and bridges, complete Land Acquisition Proposal including ownership details all complete as per latest guidelines, Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal, Forest Diversion Proposal with clearance of all stages etc as required, at Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand. from Consultants empanelled in Category-I with the Road Construction Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no -3063(S) W.E dated 22-08-2022 are allowed to bid.
2-	Work completion time	20 Days
3-	Tentative Length	2.00 km
4-	Cost of Tender Document & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Cost of Tender Document** - Rs 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) (Non-Refundable) through online mode only. **EMD :-** Rs 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) through online mode only. As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through e-procurement portal (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by Internet banking/ NEFT/ RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.
5-	Date and Time of Publishing of Tender on official website	24.02.2025, 05.00 PM
6-	Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)	05.03.2025, 12.30 PM
7-	Date and Timing of Bid opening	06.03.2025, 12.30 PM
8-	Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, RCD, Ranchi, Nirupan Bhavan, 56 set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi- 834002, Mobile No-8051090751
9-	Mode of Bid Submission	e-Tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
10	PR No	345265 Road (24-25)

For further information please go through the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Field Survey Division, A.P
Road Construction Department, Ranchi

PR 347006 Road (24-25)_D

Govt. of Jharkhand
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, Road Construction Department, Nirupan Bhawan, 4th floor, 56-Set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002
e-mail--- eercdapfsdran-jhr@nic.in

e-Procurement very Short Notice (2nd Call)

e-Tender Reference No .-RCD/FSD /AP/ RAN/**58**/24-25 Dated **20.02.2025**

1-	Name of Work	Consultancy services for preparation of Detailed project report for construction of road- Deer-Park (on Ranchi-Muri road), ramdera to Jharkhand More road upto Muri including replacement of culverts and bridges, proposal of new culverts and bridges, complete Land Acquisition Proposal including ownership details , Resettlement and Rehabilitation Proposal and Forest Diversion Proposal including clearance of all stages etc as required all complete as per latest guidelines, at Ranchi in the state of Jharkhand from Consultants empanelled in Category-I with the Road Construction Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no -3063(S) W.E dated 22-08-2022 are allowed to bid.
2-	Work completion time	45 Days
3-	Tentative Length	08.00 km
4-	Cost of Tender Document & Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Cost of Tender Document** - Rs 5,000/- (Rupees Five Thousand) (Non-Refundable) through online mode only. **EMD :-** Rs- 20,000/- (Rupees Twenty Thousand) through online mode only. As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through e-procurement portal (https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by Internet banking/ NEFT/ RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.
5-	Date and Time of Publishing of Tender on official website	24.02.2025, 05.00 PM
6-	Last date and Time of submission of Tender (With Tender Fee and EMD)	05.03.2025, 12.30 PM
7-	Date and Timing of Bid opening	06.03.2025, 12.30 PM
8-	Tender Inviting Authority	Executive Engineer, Field Survey Division, Advance Planning, RCD, Ranchi, Nirupan Bhavan, 56 set Chowk, Doranda, Ranchi-834002, Mobile No-8051090751
9-	Mode of Bid Submission	e-Tendering (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in)
10	PR No	336274 Road (24-25)

For further information please go through the website http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in

Executive Engineer
Field Survey Division, A.P
Road Construction Department, Ranchi

PR 347001 Road (24-25)_D

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka, constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, vide its letter No. **SEIAA 127 CON 2024** dated: 27-11-2024 has accorded Environmental Clearance to **M/s. APG Premium Residential Private Limited** for construction of Residential Development Project at Sy. No. 170/2, Gattahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban District.

Copy of the Clearance letter is available with the SEIAA office and may also be seen on the website of the MOEF & CC at **https://parivesh.nic.in**

This Public Notice is issued in compliance with the conditions laid down in the above Environmental Clearance.

Sd/-

PUBLIC NOTICE

The State Level Environment Impact Assessment Authority, Karnataka, constituted by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF & CC), Government of India, vide its letter No. **SEIAA 129 CON 2024** dated: 30-11-2024 has accorded Environmental Clearance to **M/s Infraedge Management Services Private Limited** for construction of Residential Development Project at **Sy. No. No. 29/3, 31/1, 31/2, 32/1 and 32/2** of Avalahalli Village, Huskur Main Road, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru Urban

Copy of the Clearance letter is available with the SEIAA office and may also be seen on the website of the MOEF & CC at **https://parivesh.nic.in.**

This Public Notice is issued in compliance with the conditions laid down in the above Environmental Clearance.

Sd/-

MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI

Ph. : 08472/ 278675 Fax. : 08472 / 260776 E-mail : itstaff_ulb_gulbarga@yahoo.com

No: KMP/EE/TS-02/ 15th FC/2024-25 Date:20.02.2025

KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL
TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 04/2024-25

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 07 tenders as per KPPP Portal 2.0 act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through KPPP Portal in KW- 1, 2 & 3 Tender bid documents under 15th Finance for the year 2023-24, 15th Finance for the year 2024-25, 15th Finance for the year 2024-25 COW, 15th Finance 2020-22 to 2022-23 Savings Amount Commission scheme. The bid documents can be downloaded from KPPP Portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in, 2) Estimate Sanction cost: **lowest amount Rs. 15.00 lakhs & Highest amount Rs. 77.50 lakhs,** 3) EMD Value: Lowest Rs. 15,400.00 & Highest Rs. 1,35,400.00, 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: **07.03.2025 upto 11-00 am.** 4) Last date of Bid Submission: **07.03.2025 upto 4-30 pm.** 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **10.03.2025 upto 4-35 pm.** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: **11.03.2025 after 11:30 am.** 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi. 8) For more details visit Office Website **http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.

DIPR/Kalaburagi/994/KSMC&A/2024-25

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, CHAMARAJANAGARA
Backward Classes Welfare Department

District Administrative Office, Room No. 131, First Floor, Chamarajanagara
Email : dobcmchamarajanagara@gmail.com Phone : 08226-222180

No. BCWD/CW-02/CR-92/2025-26 Date : 17-02-2025

E-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTIFICATION

Sub. : Vacancies for Cooks, Cook Assistants, Night Watchmen, Cleaning Staff in Pre-Metric/ Post Metric Hostels under Backward Classes Welfare Department of Chamarajanagara District and Teaching/ Non Teaching and Cook, Cook Assistants, Night Watchmen Vacancies in Morarji Desai Residential Schools., Sanitation Staff, and Taluk Backward Classes Welfare officer Vacancies in the offices of Data Entry Operator Grade-2, Data entry operator and Driver Vacancy in the District office to seek human Resource Services on outstanding basis to recruit qualified personnel temporarily through the outstanding agency under the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurement Act (KTPP) Rules 2000 are intended to be procured through e-procurement.

1. Tender Notification Date : No. BCWD/CW-02/CR-92/2025-26, Date : 17-02-2025
2. Tender Amount Rs. 178.00 Lakhs.
3. Start date for upload Tender form Date : 17-02-2025
4. Pre Bid meeting Date : 25-02-2025 Time : 11.30 am
5. Last date to upload tender form date : 18-03-2025 Time : 17.00 O' clock.
6. Place date and time to opening Technical bid Date : 24-03-2025 Time 17.30 O'clock, District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Administrative Office, Room No. 131, First Floor, Chamarajanagara.
7. Place date and time to Opening Financial Bid Date : 27-03-2025 at 11.30 O'Clock, District Office, Backward Classes Welfare Department, Administrative Office, Room No. 131, First Floor, Chamarajanagara.
8. EMD amount to be paid with Tender Form : 8,90,000-00.
9. Concerned Officer Name, Office Address and contact No. for Correspondence : District Officer, Backward Classes Welfare Department, District Administrative Office, Room No. 131, First Floor, Chamarajanagara, Ph. 08226-222180.

Sd/- District Officer
Backward Classes Welfare Department,
Chamarajanagara Dist., Chamarajanagara.

DIPR : CHANAR:639:2024-25

THE FEDERAL BANK LIMITED
Regd. Office: Aluva, Kerala.

ZONAL OFFICE: 2nd Floor, Halcyon Complex, No.9, St Marks Road, Bangalore-560 001.
e-mail: bgrr-cpc@federalbank.co.in Phone: 080-22074610/604/613/624/625

BGRR/PvtSale/2024-25 **NOTICE FOR PRIVATE SALE OF GOLD** 21/02/2025

Notice is hereby given for the information of all concerned that Gold Ornaments pledged in the following Gold Loan accounts, with the under mentioned Branches of the Bank, which are overdue for redemption and which have not been regularized so far in spite of repeated notices, will be put for Private sale, in the respective Branches on any date after 10-03-2025 as shown below:

Br. Kinnigoli: C4 and C5, Pintos Golden Castle, Talipady Road, Next to BSNL office, Kinnigoli, Dakshin Kannada, Karnataka, 574 150 Ph : 0824-2295690 :-
20076400025983,20076400030173,20076400038242,20076400037053,20076400030207,20076400036030,20075500003817,20076400034274,20076400036741,20076400038481,20076400034357,20076400039463,20075500003478,20076400032930,20076400032922,20076400031544,20076400034126,20076400034134,20076400039364,20076400039380,20076400032963,20076400035123,20076400037012.

Br. Moodabidri: Next to Hotel Pancharatna Buidling, Moodabidri, Dakshin Kannada Dist.- 574 227 :-
19626400071396,19626400079647,19626400071420,19626400079654,19626400078094,19626400079811,19626400078086,19626400079845,19626400078292,19626400072782,19626400079092,19626400079951,19626400079118,19626400080223,19626400079167,19626400080520,19626400079175,19626400080488,19626400060738,19626400079365,19626400079316,19626400080660,19626400079324,19626400080694,19626400079480,19626400080769.

Br. Mangalore: P B No. 775, Near PVS Circle, Manasa Towers, M G Road, Kodialbail, Mangalore, Dakshin Kannada- 575 003, Ph No. 08242-497883 :-
11756400047456,11756400041954,11756400045708,11756400046136,11756400046144,11756400046151,11756400046581,11756400044503,11756400048686,11756400047829,11756400030650,11756400037028,11756400044990,11756400045005,11756400049031,11756400038463,1756400044545,11756400045039,11756400047118,11756400048520,11756400048579,11756400047787,11756400047431,11756100095359,11756400048876,11756400048942,11756400049932,11756400049023,11756400049106,11756400047910,11756400047613.

Br. Mangalore/Kankanady: The Vintage, Kankanady, Dakshina Kannada, Mangalore, Karnataka- 575 002, Ph No. 08242430152 :-
17706400038421,17706400031350,17706400039825,17706400034263,17706400037621,17706400031517,17706400035377,17706400035534,17706400035724,17706400038942,17706400031814,17706400035864,17706400035443,17706400033976,17706400035468.

Br.Nellyadi: Elite Plaza, Nh 48, Near St.George P U College, Nellyadi, Dakshin Kannad, Karnataka, 574 229,Ph No.08251-256100
16446400088743,16446400103898,16446400101256,16446400096357,16446400096613,16446400104938,16446400096845,16446400105174,16446400101801,16446400090491,16446400094576,16446400094717,16446400101611,16445500004352,16446400101025,16446400105471,16446400105703,16446400106149,16446400107097,16446400104953,16446400095359,16446400098577,16446400104656,16446400104664,16446400104672,16446400104698,16446400104706.

Br. Puttur: Meenar Complex, Main Road, Puttur, Dakshin Kannada- 574201, Ph: 08251-233544 :- 18946400094003,18946400085894,18946400094565,18946400097956,18946400097949,18946400095133,18946400088252,18946400095505,18946400076943,18946400090860,18946400087650,18946400100438.

Br. Shimoga: Haranahalli Manjappa Complex,, Park Extension Road, Durgigudi, Shimoga District- 577 201, Ph No. 08182-271998 :-
15906400095684,15906400078896,15906400098720,15906400093861,15906400085776,15906400083623,15906400091626,15906400099728,15906400085933,15906400059599,15906400103314,15906400093408,15906400090834,15906400059615,15906400091758,15906400092632,15906400089919,15906400083979,15906400072337,15906400091550,15906400082419,15906400089448,15906400087152,15906400094695,15906400083169,15906400089505,15906400101136,15906400095510,15906400083433,15906400089513,15906400096930,15906400091170,15906400084530,15906400089612,15906400084068,15906400079118,15906400085214,15906400086063,15906400088952,15906400094083,15906400089547,15906400087673,15906400097037,15906400078409,15906400058583,15906400088093,15906400068624,15906400095098,15906400093879,15906400097896,15906400075058,15906400057411,15906400056421,15906400102662,15906400098852,15906400097680,15906400093887,15906400094778,15906400050648,15906400102852,15906400076320,15906400096856,15906400078433,15906400073772,15906400091667,15906400085677,15906400075918,15906400079746,15906400093382,15906400093036,15906400100583,15906400100930,15906400090024,15906400093960,15906400097474,15906400064680,15906400067584,15906400094422,15906400097482,15906400094109,15906400086972,15906400098233,15906400092475,15906400098985,15906400072410,15906400073715,15906400095478,15906400101946,15906400085099,15906400095015,15906400098274,15906400077898,15906400091469,15906400092384,15906400100740,15906400094216,15906400091089,15906400093366,15906100027748,15906400101912,15906400085982,15906400102969,15906400092749,15906400088580,15906400093374,15906400103116,15906400097656,15906400089455,15906400096591,15906400103223,15906400092798,15906400089463,15906400079134,15906400104007,15906400096187,15906400093176,15906400093903,15906400095254,15906400094133,15906400096443,15906400080744,15906400090297,15906400097763,15906400097300,15906400095296,15906400094091,15906400097862,15906400100120,15906400093358,15906400096971,15906400096609,15906400100955,15906400082286,15906400090917,15906400102621,15906400096427,15906400084134,15906400098662,15906400055480,15906400099488,15906400070901,15906400095494,15906400093002,15906400093424,15906400050705,15906400096203,15906400098175,15906400097649,15906400095262,15906400098936,15906400098027,15906400097706,15906400072345,15906400099033,15906400101193,15906400098878,15906400082039,15906400081924,15906400093051,15906400103496,15906400081825,15906400098035,15906400103280,15906400102282,15906400095551,15906400068418,15906400099017,15906400088739,15906400101144,15906400074564,15906400103306,15906400102274,15906400101771,15906400086055,15906400103330,15906400098761,15906400102209,15906400100302,15906400103801,15906400104049,15906400072402,15906400100419,15906400093333,15906400098647,15906400075462,15906400103991,15906400099041,15906400094687,15906400088119,15906400094141,15906400103702,15906400097938,15906400095213,15906400101680,15906400103710,15906400100278,15906400098472,15906400085487,15906400103983,15906400074739,15906400100146,15906400086006,15906400092426,15906400102811,15906400093754,15906400092624,15906400103561,15906400086840,15906400101342,15906400099306,15906400098365,15906400094562,15906400082237,15906400099314,15906400061835,15906400097011.

Br. Sullia: Ganesh Complex, Main Road, Sullia, Dakshina Kannada, Karnataka- 574 239, Ph no. 08257 230818 :- 19006400046526,19006400046559,19006400041618,19006400052185,19006400037244,19006400038663,19006400047441,19006400053811,19006400037236,19006400047870.

Br. Thokottu: R E B Complex, Opp.Thokottu Bus stand, Nh17, Permannur Po, Thokkottu Jn, Dakshin Kannada– 575 017, Ph no.08242462013 :-
20136400082671,20136400078349,20136400082697,20136400082655,20136400082689,20136400082713

Br. Udupi: Mahalasa Towers, Court Road, Udupi, Karnataka- 576 101, Ph no. 08202521562 :- 15746400058344,15746400060050,15746400062312,15746400063443,15746400068418,15746400068400,15746400068384,15746400068434,15746400067808,15746400059128,15746400046331,15746400070539.

Br. Narasimharajapura: No.794, Dayasagar Complex, Near IOC Petrol Pump, Nagalapura, B H Kaimara, Chikmagalur, Karnataka- 577 134 Ph: 08266-228055 :- 18956400020197,18956400021989,18956400031764,18956400031947,18956400031939.

Br. Karwar: 451/G-1, Suprabha, Green Street, Karwar, Uttar Kannada-581 301 Ph:91-8382-222842 :- 16286400038912,16286400039670,16286400037443.

Bangalore 21-02-2025 Vice President & Zonal Head

10 years on, pourakarmikas yet to receive flats at BDA's Alur residential complex

Being nearly abandoned, the vacant portion of the premises has become a dumping yard to throw garbage

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Flats constructed by BDA for pourakarmikas at Alur in Bengaluru are still not occupied owing to poor maintenance. SUDHAKARA JAIN

The residential complex built by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) for the pourakarmikas at Alur has turned into ghost houses with none occupied even 10 years after the completion of the project, thanks to the poor coordination between the BDA and the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP).

Located in the northern part of Bengaluru, Alur village is about 25 km from the Central Business District and is governed by the village panchayat. BDA, BBMP and BWSSB decided to build the complex in this village due to the non-availability of land in the city. This apartment complex, which has about 400 single BHK (bedroom, hall, kitchen) flats, was built in 2014-2015. Being nearly abandoned, the vacant portion of the premises has become a dumping yard for garbage. On the other hand, with no maintenance of the building cracks have surfaced on the walls, kitchens slabs have broken and some miscreants have also dumped waste inside the rooms. In the present condition, even if the flats are given to the civic workers, they may think twice to occupy, say civic workers and leaders of the unions.

H.R Shantarajanna, Engineer Member (Chief Engineer), BDA talking to The Hindu said the BDA is not at fault as the BBMP is yet to share the list of beneficiaries with the authority. The BWSSB shared a list of 46 beneficiaries following which the BDA has initiated the process to handover the flats to the water board.

Unless the BBMP shares a list of beneficiaries the flats cannot be handed over to the civic body, be said. However, Mr. Shantarajanna did not comment about the poor maintenance of the building.

On the other hand, R. Prathibha, Joint Commissioner, Solid Waste Management Department, BBMP said for the civic body to prepare the list of the beneficiaries, the BDA should handover the units.

Abject neglect

C.N. Anand, Pourakarmikara Parivartana Sangha said, "Firstly, building a complex 25 km away from the city is impractical as civic workers have to commute daily to sweep the roads.

As the building is already completed, it is the responsibility of the BDA and the BBMP to work in tandem to select the eligible workers as beneficiaries. Now the building is lying vacant and it appears the local panchayat and citizens of the village are using the premises as a dumping yard. The authorities should act fast to provide flats to the civic workers," he said. Nagamma, a senior civic worker said "it pains to see how ignorant the BBMP and BDA are towards the Pourakarmikas. We are the wheels of the city without which the city will come to standstill. How can someone live in a place which is full of garbage and in flats that are in poor plight. The BDA has to clear the garbage and fix the flats before giving them to the beneficiaries."

HC expresses concern over 'exploitation of human labour' by State govt.

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Observing that non-regularisation of the service of two daily wage employees, who have been working for the State for the past 32 and 39 years, respectively, will amount to "exploiting human labour", the High Court of Karnataka has ordered their regularisation from the date when they completed 10 years of service as per the parameters laid down by the apex court.

"The State government itself should consider regularisation of such cases, in which those on daily wages meet the parameters laid down by the apex court for regularisation of service, as a person employed on daily wage will not be in a position to bear the brunt of litigation and it is not the law that every person should be driven to the court seeking the very same relief that is granted to similarly situated persons...," the court observed.

Justice M. Nagaprasanna issued the directions while allowing the petition filed by Anandu, 58, who has been working as a literate assistant for 39 years, and Ishwar, 54, a junior engineer working for 32 years with the Panchayat Raj Engineering Department's sub-division at Ankola in Uttara Kannada district.

Why not regularised?

Wondering why the petitioners' service was not regularised despite the recommendation from the authorities when a larger number of similarly placed daily wage workers were regularised in terms of the apex court's directions, the court said, "The petitioners have in their prime youth worked for the services of the State, as daily wagers. They continue to be in that position even today."

"They are in the last leg of their services. If their services are not directed to be regularised today, it would be putting a premium on the act of the State, exploiting human labour, as these petitioners, if left in the lurch, will have to wander for their livelihood after having served the State for 39 years and 32 years, respectively," the court observed.

Entitlements

The court said the petitioners are entitled to fixation of their salaries as permanent employees and other consequential benefits from the date they completed 10 years in service but they would not be entitled to arrears of salary.

The services rendered by the petitioners would be counted for the purpose of determination of pension and other terminal benefits, the court said, giving 12 weeks for the government to implement the directions.

Surgical treatment for spinal deformities in children now covered under AB-ArK

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Health Department has now included surgical treatment for spinal deformities such as scoliosis, kyphosis, and lordosis under the Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka (AB-ArK) health scheme.

Mostly found in children and teens, these deformities have a huge negative impact on their daily activities and quality of life. These deformities refer to abnormal curvatures of the spine.

While scoliosis involves a sideways curvature, kyphosis is an excessive rounding of the upper back (creating a hump), and lordosis is an exaggerated inward curve in the lower back, often called "swayback".

Spinal deformities can be caused by genetic factors, developmental issues, injuries, poor posture, neuromuscular conditions, or degenerative diseases. Depending on the severity, symptoms may include back pain, difficulty in breathing, uneven shoulders, noticeable curvature, and postural imbalances.

Spinal deformities can be caused by genetic factors, developmental issues, injuries, poor posture, neuromuscular conditions, or degenerative diseases

Government Order

A Government Order on including surgical treatment for these deformities in the health scheme on February 21 stated they will be covered under an "unspecified surgical package".

Aimed at providing universal health coverage to the people of the State, the AB-ArK is being implemented by the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust, the State's nodal agency.

Currently, 1,650 procedures are covered under the scheme. The decision follows the Finance Department's approval of the Health Department's proposal.

While the Health Department has fixed a rate of ₹1.5 lakh for each surgery of spinal deformity correction under the supervision of a committee of expert doctors, the approval of the competent authority is a must for availing of this package. With the State government approving the Health Department's proposal to fill eight vacant posts of dental officers on a contract basis in State-run healthcare facilities excluding district hospitals, dental treatment in these facilities will now be covered under the AB-ArK.

According to a Government Order issued in this regard, Harsh Gupta, Principal Secretary (Health), has said that eight dental officers will be appointed on a contract basis in various places.

KSMCA donates ₹1 cr. to CM's relief fund

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Marketing Communication and Advertising (KSMCA) Limited, a State government enterprise, has donated ₹1 crore from its profits to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

The cheque was presented by KSMCA Chairman, Satish Krishna Sail, along with the Minister for Large and Medium Scale Industries and Infrastructure Development, M.B. Patil, to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Thursday.

L.K. Atheeq, Additional Chief Secretary to the Chief Minister, Mohammed Ateequlla Sharif, Managing Director of KSMCA, and P.S. Nandeesha, Deputy General Manager of KSMCA were present on the occasion.

Dividend declared

KSMCA also declared a dividend of ₹5.29 crore for the financial year 2023-24.

KSMCA is a State government enterprise engaged in providing marketing communication and advertising services.

Servants of Knowledge digitises 33,000 books in NLSIU library

Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
BELAGAVI

Sushant Sinha, Sabha, Carl Malamud, Omshivaprakash H.L. and Lawrence Liang at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru on Friday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Servants of Knowledge (SoK), a non-profit organisation working towards creating free and universal access to public data, has completed the digitisation of over 33,000 books in the National Law School of India University, Bengaluru. It has also created a digitised database of law books and legal resources for visually-challenged students, which will be available at Gandhi Bhavan in Bengaluru.

Controlled access

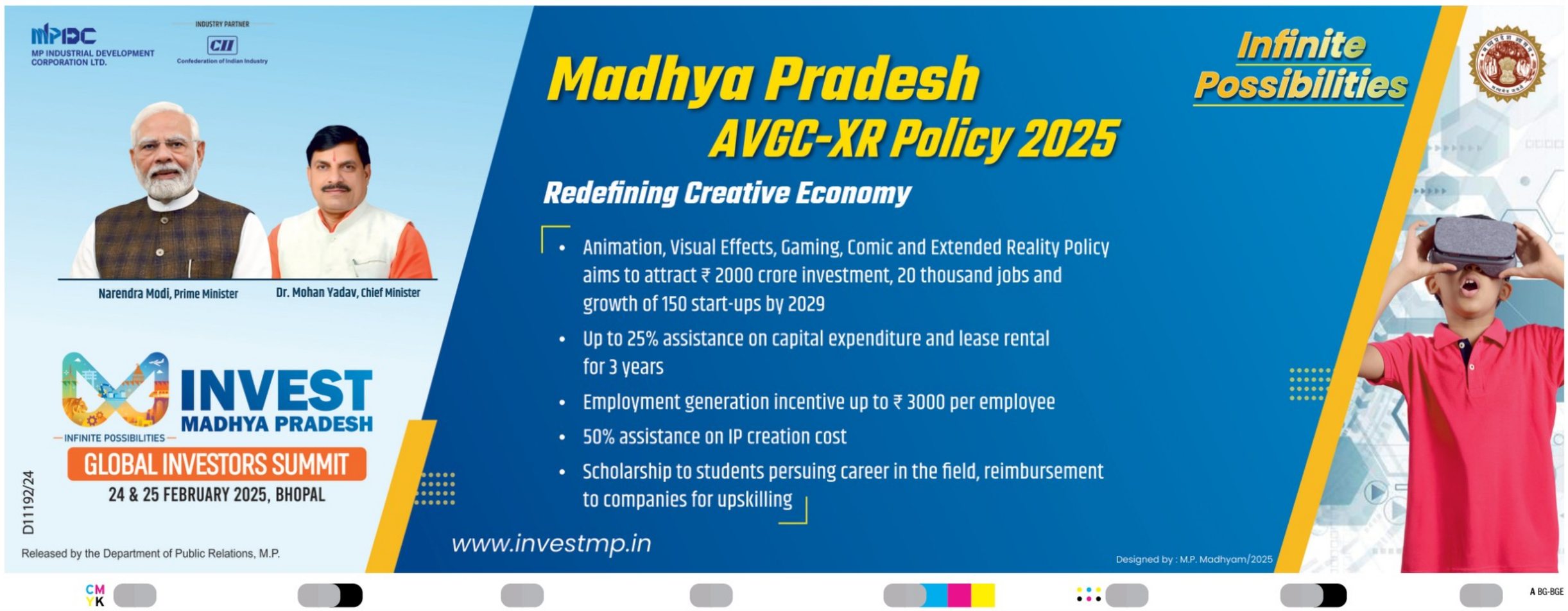
Both the resources, handed over on Friday, are free and accessible to law students and researchers. However, access is carefully controlled to ensure that only those students who want the reference material as part of their course work get them. They are not universally available online due to copyright and other legal restrictions. These offline digital libraries were launched in Bengaluru on Friday.

Carl Malamud, founder and honorary secretary, SoK, told *The Hindu* that a team of 10 trained archivists worked on the NLSIU library for three years to digitise 33,149 books and some magazines and journals. The books were digitised and made searchable through Optical Character Recognition technology. The project was launched by Vice-Chancellor Sudhir Krishnaswamy three years ago.

"A computer containing all this material was donated to the NLSIU. This will be used by the librarians in the institute. Whenever a student needs a book or material, the librarian will find it and give it to the student in an online format," he said. It will be manned by a trained librarian so as to be careful about copyright issues.

On the project for the visually-challenged students, Mr. Malamud said that SoK had donated funds to the organisation Increasing Diversity by Increasing Access (IDIA) to help their efforts towards accessibility. "IDIA utilised our monetary contribution to hire a research resource person to interact with blind law students. The computer with material will stay at Gandhi Bhavan. We will train their resource person on Intellectual Property law, on how to do research, and in the technology involved in archiving. When a visually-challenged student needs a book, the resource person will find it and turn it into a suitable format. They can be in Word, Braille or DAISY (Digital Accessible Information System) formats," he said.

Lawrence Liang, professor of law at Dr. B.R. Ambedkar University, New Delhi, who has been associated with SoK for several years, said that this would address issues of lack of accessibility to the deprived and disabled. "Access to law hinges on two things - access to the legal institutions like courts and to legal knowledge. In fact, it remains the biggest hindrance in the process of legal remedies. We have to deal with several things like the apprehension that law is a technical field and that legal language is not easily understood and face the challenge of producing quality lawyers from outside of elite law schools as the state of libraries is very poor in such institutions. They tend to have outdated books, and fewer international publications. For the visually-challenged law students, it is next to impossible to get quality material. Efforts such these will help them greatly," Prof. Liang said.



Assault on NWKRTC conductor leads to suspension of some bus services

Four persons, including a minor, held; POCSO case filed against conductor. Incident leads to protests in Belagavi, Kolhapur

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI/MUMBAI

People trying to convince members of Kannada organisations to end their protest demanding the withdrawal of the POCSO case registered against the NWKRTC bus conductor, outside Marihal police station in Belagavi on Saturday. P.K. BADIGER

Ramalinga Reddy says the department will stand by the conductor; MSRTC bus services between Maharashtra and Karnataka suspended from Kolhapur division

The case of assault on a NWKRTC bus conductor for asking a passenger to speak in Kannada took another turn on Saturday, with a counter case under the provisions of the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act being filed against the bus conductor. Meanwhile, the police have detained four persons, including a minor, in connection with the assault. The incident has also taken a political turn with protests being staged both in Karnataka and Maharashtra.

On the other side of the border, MSRTC bus services between Maharashtra and Karnataka has been suspended from Kolhapur division by the Maharashtra government for the safety and security of its employees and commuters, the Maharashtra government said on Saturday. The decision has been taken in light of the assault of a Maharashtra State transport employee by some anti-social elements in Chitradurga in Karnataka on Friday night.

Members of the Karnataka Nava Nirmana Sene stopped a Maharashtra State transport bus near Chitradurga and smeared the bus with black ink. In retaliation, some persons stopped a public transport bus from Karnataka at Kolhapur in Maharashtra on Saturday and smeared it with black ink. They put saffron flags on them.

How incident unfolded

On Friday evening, Mahadevappa Hukkeri, the bus conductor, was admitted to hospital after he was assaulted by a group of miscreants for asking a passenger to speak in Kannada at Chikka Balekundri village.

The Marihal station police, who nabbed the accused, gave their names as Maruti Turamuri, Rahul Raju Naidu, and Balu Gojkekar, all residents of Balekundri village. Barring the minor, the remaining three were produced in the court on Saturday evening. The court remanded them in judicial costody for 14 days.

POCSO case

Meanwhile, a case under provisions of the POCSO Act has been registered against the conductor by the minor girl who had travelled with a boy in the NWKRTC bus which was proceeding to Sulebhavi from Belagavi on Friday. In the complaint, the conductor has been accused of "behaving inappropriately" with her.

On Friday, a boy travelling with the girl on the bus started arguing with the conductor when he was asked to pay for his ticket. As he began arguing in Marathi, the conductor asked him to speak in Kannada as he did not know Marathi. Following this, the boy allegedly started abusing him. He subsequently called his friends, who boarded the bus and then beat up the conductor.

Protests held

Following the arrest and the POCSO case, protests and counter-protests were witnessed in Belagavi in Karnataka and its nearby city Kolhapur in Maharashtra.

Karnataka Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy has said the department would stand by the conductor, against whom a case under the POCSO Act has been filed. He said the POCSO case appeared to be an afterthought and that he would speak to the Home Minister on the issue.

Maharashtra Transport Minister Pratap Sarnaik, responding to the incident in Chitradurga, said, "This is an extremely unfortunate incident. We condemn it. In view of the safety of our commuters and employees, we have suspended the bus services to Karnataka from Kolhapur division indefinitely. They won't resume till the Karnataka government takes a stance on it and speaks with us." The Minister also held a telephonic conversation with Bhaskar Jadhav, the driver of the State transport bus who was allegedly assaulted in Chitradurg on Friday night.

Forum criticises Centre's waiver of penalty on excess, illegally cultivated tobacco

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

As tobacco is a controlled crop, the Tobacco Board fixes an annual crop size for the State and quota for each barn for a grower possessing the licence to cultivate the crop. M.A. SRIRAM

The Anti-Tobacco Forum (ATF), Mysuru, has taken exception to the Centre's recent decision to waive the penalty on excess and illegally cultivated tobacco in Karnataka.

Referring to the notification issued by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, dated February 17, 2025, that stated that circumstances have arisen rendering it necessary in the public interest to relax the restrictions imposed by the Tobacco Board Act, 1975, for disposal of "excess flue-cured Virginia tobacco" of "registered growers and unregistered growers" at the authorised auction platforms of the Tobacco Board in Karnataka for crop season 2024-25, ATF convener Vasanthkumar Mysoremath has raised concerns over public health from the Centre's decision.

Restrictions used to be in place in the previous years, with the farmers cultivating excess or illegal tobacco being allowed to participate in auctions by paying a penalty. As tobacco is a controlled crop, the Tobacco Board fixes an annual crop size for the State and quota for each barn for a grower possessing the licence to cultivate the crop.

According to officials at the board, the crop size for tobacco in Karnataka was fixed at 100 million kg for 2024-25. While excess tobacco is estimated to be around 7 million kg, unauthorised tobacco is estimated to account for another 11 million kg.

"Now, these restrictions have been relaxed to open Pandora's box to grow excess tobacco by the licence holders and also to allow unlicensed tobacco farmers to grow the crop," lamented Mr. Mysoremath while pointing out that the relaxation would attract more food crop growers to shift to tobacco.

How 'public interest'?

He wondered how the Government of India could consider it necessary in the "public interest" to relax the restrictions imposed by the board on the illegally grown "killer" tobacco when one person is dying an unnatural death every seventh second due to diseases directly attributable to the consumption of tobacco products.

"These uncalled-for relaxations are not acceptable under any circumstances since *prima facie* they look like appeasement relaxations for sections of our society due to pressure from political class for their vote-bank policies and tobacco growers' associations..."

While India earned accolades from world bodies by banning e-cigarettes, paradoxically, with these relaxations, it has proved that it is not sincere in its commitment to the international protocol of WHO/FCTC that provides for all signatories, including India, to help farmers to adopt alternative crops and reduce the cultivation of tobacco.

Withdraw relaxations

The ATF has urged the Government of India to withdraw these relaxations and make stringent rules to ensure an annual reduction in the area under tobacco cultivation and crop size, and ban participation in annual auctions of excess and illegally grown tobacco. The ATF has also urged the government to stop subsidies and strictly enforce rules prescribed under the COTPA.

Chikkamagaluru: 2021 Council election votes to be recounted

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Chikkamagaluru district administration will recount the votes polled during the elections to the Legislative Council from the local bodies of Chikkamagaluru district, held way back in December 2021, on February 28, 2025. It will take place as per the court orders.

The Karnataka High Court directed the administration to hold a recount in response to a petition filed by Gayathri Shanthe Gowda, the Congress candidate who lost the election against BJP's M.K. Pranesh.

Meena Nagaraj, Deputy Commissioner of Chikkamagaluru, told *The Hindu*, "The Election Commission has issued instructions to conduct the vote counting in accordance with the Conduct of Election Rules. We will notify the candidates and initiate the counting process."

The polling took place on December 10, 2021. The counting was conducted on December 14, 2021. Of the total 2,410 votes cast, Mr. Pranesh secured 1,188 votes, while Ms. Gowda lost, receiving 1,182 votes. As many as 39 votes were deemed invalid. Besides the two, there were three candidates in the fray.

Ms. Gowda moved the court challenging the election of Mr. Pranesh, arguing that 12 members of urban local bodies in Sringeri, Koppa, Narasimharajapura, and Mudgiere, who were nominated by the government, had no voting rights. Now, the court has ordered the district administration to recount the votes and keep the votes polled by the nominated members separate.

The polling was conducted with ballot papers.

Judicial employees' conference

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Judicial Department Employees Association will host the eighth State-level Judicial Employees' Conference on Sunday to mark its golden jubilee. The conference will be inaugurated by Arvind Kumar, Supreme Court judge, and N.V. Anjaria, Chief Justice of the High Court of Karnataka, will preside over the event. The programme will start at 10.30 a.m. at the Jnana Jyothi Auditorium, Palace Road, Bengaluru.

TENDER NOTICE

No: SSSCT/PROC/25-26/RJ/001 dated 23-02-2025

Sri Sathya Sai Central Trust, Prasanthi Nilayam invites tenders for supply of **Ragi Flour (Finger Millets) and Jaggery Powder** each approx 300 MT per Month for a period of 11 months.
For Tender Documents visit:
https://tenders.sssct.org/Ragi.Jaggery.pdf
Last Date for Submission of Tender is 15th March 2025
SRI SATHYA SAI CENTRAL TRUST, PRASANTHI NILAYAM.

Prayagraj Nagar Nigam
1,Sarojini Naidu Marg,
Prayagraj-211001
Uttar Pradesh

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

NIT No/465/STCB/2024-2025 **Date: 22/02/2025**

This is to inform all prespective bidders having the required qualification mentioned in the EOI document that Municipal Corporation Prayagraj invites Expression of Interest (EOI) for Establishment, Operation and Maintenance of a 200- Bedded Super Speciality Hospital in Naini, Prayagraj.

Schedule For EOI

S. No.	Activity	Date	Time
1	EOI Document Availability	24/02/2025	10:00 hrs onwards
2	Last date of EOI Submission	10/03/2025	up to 15:00 hrs
3	EOI opening Date	10/03/2025	16:00 hrs onwards

For more details, please visit the website at :
http://www.etender.up.nic.in.

(Satish Kumar)
Chief Engineer
Prayagraj Nagar Nigam

RO: 3398/PRO/2025
Dt 22-02-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. Vishal Chitransh, S/o. Sri. Pradeep Kumar Srivastava and his wife Smt. Varnika Srivastava are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners Sri. Praneesh, S/o. Sri. A. P. Prakashan and his wife Smt. Sri. Praneesh, both are residing at No. 1, Vaibhava Residency, 1st Main, G. M. Palya, Bangalore-560075.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROEPRTY

Residential vacant Plot No.82, in the residential Layout known as "MANA FOLIAGE", APA/LAO/81/2013-14, dated 05-10-2015 formed in converted land bearing Sy. No. 52, situated at Sammanahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Village Panchayath Form No. 9 & 11A bearing E-Khata No. 52/82, PID No. No. 150200102100520378 measuring East to West: 9.14 Mtrs., and North to South: 12.19 Mtrs., in all measuring 111.41 Sq. Mtrs., and bounded on: East by:Road, West by : Site No. 87, North by : Site No.83, South by:Site No.81.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B,
& B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
#1010, 2nd Floor, 7th A Main Road,
1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 18-02-2025

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client Sri. Shubhang Dhar Dubey, S/o. Sri. Janardan Dhar Dubey and his wife Smt. Sangeeta Pandey are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder for a valuable consideration with its owners Kumari Lakshmi Sundaram, D/o. Sri. Sundaram and Smt. S. E. Kaveri, W/o. Sri. Sundaram, both are residing at No. 104, Bilden Park, 1st A Main Road, G. M. Palya, Bangalore-560075.

If any persons, banks, financial institutions etc., having any claims, right, title and interest whatsoever over the schedule property may forward their objections to the undersigned in writing with supporting documents of your such claims, within 7 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which it will be deemed that there are no claims, right, title and interest by anybody and my client will proceed for completion of sale transaction and thereafter no claims will be considered.

SCHEDULE PROEPRTY

Residential vacant Plot No.81, in the residential Layout known as "MANA FOLIAGE", APA/LAO/81/2013-14, dated 05-10-2015 formed in converted land bearing Sy. No. 52, situated at Sammanahalli Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Village Panchayath Form No. 9 & 11A bearing E-Khata No. 52/81, PID No. No. 150200102100520377 measuring East to West: 9.14 Mtrs., and North to South: 12.19 Mtrs., in all measuring 111.41 Sq. Mtrs., and bounded on: East by :Road, West by :Site No. 88, North by:Site No.82, South by : Site No.80.

MANJUNATHA & ASSOCIATES
K. N. MANJUNATHA CHARY, ROOPA. B,
& B.N. JAGADISH KUMAR, Advocates,
#1010, 2nd Floor, 7th A Main Road,
1st Block, Koramangala, Bangalore - 560034,
Mob: 9845965626, 7406090832
Bangalore, Date : 18-02-2025

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
"Samparka Soudha", No.8, Dr. Rajkumar Road,
Rajajinagar 1st Block, Bengaluru-560 010. Tele Fax: 080-22024000
E-mail : mdkrdcl@gmail.com & cekrdcl@gmail.com

No. KRDCL/IFB/2024-25/27 Date : 21-02-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (2nd CALL) - (Through KPP Portal)

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) invites bids from reputed Consultants on Quality and Cost Based Selection (QCBS) for **Consultancy Services for Proof Checking of Designs, Project Management and Construction Supervision and Quality Control for the work of Construction of Box Culverts / Bridge / Improvements at Ch 163.88, 167.00, 168.29, 176.03, 170.51, 181.67, 184.97 and Bridge retained at 188.72 km in Devadurga - Arkera - Siravara Road (SH-61) in Devadurga Taluk, Raichur District.** Cost of work for construction : **Rs. 1484.09 Lakhs.** EMD : **Rs. 25,000/-** through KPP Portal. Period of Completion (including monsoon) : **12 Months.**
Interested applicants can view and download bidding documents from the KPP Portal **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and submit the bids and EMD through KPP Portal only. **(a)** Last date for submission of bids : **01.03.2025 upto 17:30 Hrs. (b)** Date and time of opening of Technical bids is : **03.03.2025 at 11:30 Hrs.**
*Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through Newspapers and further changes it any, will be updated only on KPP Portal / KRDCL website : **https://www.krdcl.in**

Sd/- Chief Engineer,
KRDCL, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/5254/Sreshta/2024-25

GOVERNEMENT OF KARANTAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH BALLARI
O/o of the Chief Executive Officer, Ballari– 583101
e-mail :dsdev-zp-kabl@nic.in

E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF VARIOUS FURNITURES ITEMS FOR LIBRARIES OF GRAMA PANCHAYTHs IN BALLARI DISTUNDER SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO STATE FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND FOR THE YEAR-2024-25

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
TWO COVER TENDER DOCUMENT SYSTEMS (THROUGH KPPP PORTAL)

Tender is invited under Two Cover System on Government of Karnataka e-procurement platform from eligible suppliers having Infrastructure as stipulated in the Tender Document to E-TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF VARIOUS FURNITURES ITEMS FOR LIBRARIES OF GRAMA PANCHAYTHs IN BALLARI DIST. UNDER SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO STATE FOR CAPITAL INVESTMENT FUND FOR THE YEAR-2024-25
Tender Inviting Authority (TIA): **The Deputy Secretary. Zilla Panchayath, Ballari. Tender Accepting Authority (TAA): The chief Executive Officer. Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.** Tender Invitation Number: **RDPR/2024-25/IND7793.** KPPP Portal address: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/#/portal/portal-home. Amount put to tender. Rs.89,00,000/-(RUPEES EIGHTYNINE LAKHS ONLY). EMD amount.: Rs.1,78,000/-(RUPEES ONE LAKHS SEVENTY EIGTH THOUSEND ONLY).** Date of commencement of downloading tender document: **20.02.2025. @ 1:00 PM.** Last Date and Time and Place for Sample Submission : **06.03.2025 @ 5:30 PM Place:-Zilla Panchayath Ballari**
Time and date of Pre bid meeting. 28.02.2025 @ 11.00 AM @ Zilla Panchayath Ballari. Last date and time for Receipt of tenders: 06.03.2025 @ 5:29 PM. Time and date of opening of **Electronic Document, First (Technical Bid) & Place: 07.03.2025 @ 5:30 PM (Zilla Panchayath Ballari).** Time and date of opening of **Electronic Document, Second (Financial Bid).: Will be Intimated to the Technically Qualified Bidders.** Address for communication.: **Office of The Deputy Secretary. Zilla Panchayath, Ballari.** Contact No & e Mail ID: **+91 9480855010 / e-Mail ID: dsdev-zp-kabl@nic.in.**
TENDER INVITING AUTHORITY: Deputy Secretary, ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BALLARI. +91 9480855010
Sd/-Deputy Secretary, ZILLA PANCHAYATH, BALLARI.
DIPR/Ballari/961/KSMCA/2024-25

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests
Wildlife Sub Division, Chamarajanagar

No. A1/BUD/RBC/Tender/CR-01/2024-25 Date : 18-02-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

E-Tenders for the work Erection of Construction of Elephant Proof Barricading using used rails in Chamarajanagar Wildlife Sub Division of BRT Tiger Reserve for the year 2024-25 is invited through e-procurement portal (http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) on behalf of the Governor of Karnataka from competent firms for the following works subjected to terms and conditions of KTPP.

Description of Work	Quantity	Amount (Rs. in Lakhs)
Tender for the work of Construction of Elephant Proof Barricading using used rails from Uppalla to Ponnakutti Bridge - 1 Kms in K.Gudi Wildlife Range for the year 2024-25*.	1.00 Km	50.439

(*Subject to release of funds from Govt.)

* Last date of receipt of tender through e-portat : 01-03-2025 upto 16.30 hrs.
* If no contractors participate on 01-03-2025; re-tender will held on 10-03-2025 upto 16.30 hrs.
* No further notification will be published regarding Re-Tender.
* For more information contact the under signed office on working hours.
Phone : 08226-222059
Email ID : acf.nagara@gmail.com

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests,
Wildlife Sub Division, Chamarajanagar.

DIPR : CHANAR:637:2024-25

PUBLIC NOTICE

Public are hereby notified that on behalf of my client, that my client is intended to purchase schedule property from the present owners **1) Sri. B.Krishnappa,** S/o. Late. Karigowda, R/at. No. 1662/A, AVVA, 16th 'A' Main, 5th Cross, J.P. Nagar 2nd Phase Bangalore- 560078, **2) Sri. G.B. Mohan Kumar** S/o. lat.e B. Boraiah, R/at. No. 1773/9, 5th Main, 9th Main, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage, RPC layout, Bangalore- 560041, **3) Smt. Nagarathna** W/o. H.V. Puttaswamy, R/at Nanjegowdanahdoddi Village, Malavalli Taluk, Mandya District, Karnataka, the present owners represent the schedule property is free from all encumbrance, charged, lien, litigation or any third-party rights/claims of any nature whatsoever.
Notice is hereby given to the general public that if any person or persons, Firm or Institution has any claims or asserts any right, title or interest in the schedule Property or having or claiming any manner of right, title, lien, interest etc. in respect of the above said Property should write to the undersigned **within 15 days** from the date of this publication.
If no valid objection is received as aforesaid by the undersigned within time stipulated above, my clients shall proceed to complete the sale transaction deeming that apart from the said owners, no one else have any manner of claim over the Schedule properties.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Sl. No.	Owner/Khathedra	Survey Number	Village	Extent
1.	Sri.B.Krishnappa	Sy. No. 119	Chikkathathamangala	4 Acre 38 Guntas
2.	Sri. B.Krishnappa	Sy. No. 137	Chikkathathamangala	2 Acre 30 Guntas
3.	Smt. Nagarathna	Sy. No. 116 (old Sy. No. 38, Block 2)	Chikkathathamangala	2 Acre 30 Guntas
4.	Smt. Nagarathna	Sy. No.115 (old Sy. No. 38, Block 2)	Chikkathathamangala	2 Acre 30 guntas
5.	Sri. G.B. Mohan Kumar	Sy. No. 163	Mandibele	4 Acre 30 Guntas
6.	Sri.B.Krishnappa	Sy.No.164	Mandibele	3 Acre 19 Guntas
7.	Sri. G.B. Mohan Kumar	Sy.No. 73	Gaddadanagenahalli	3 Acre

All the survey number/properties are Situated at Vijayapura Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bangalore Rural District.

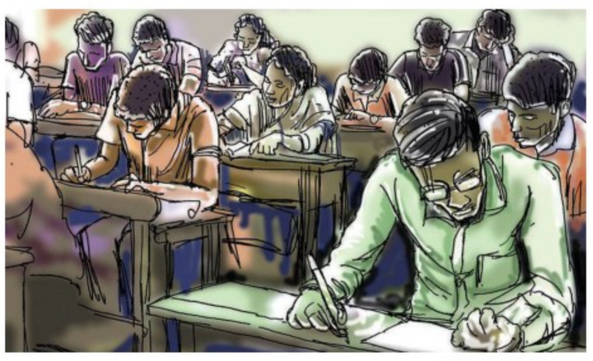
SRIKANTHAM .V.R, Advocate
No. 310, 60 feet Road, Talakaveri Layout, Sahakar Nagar Post,
Bangalore- 560 092. Phone No. 9845104859/984453966

FSL compared ink used, pressure of impression on OMR sheets

After receiving the lab report, KPSC sub-committee interrogated the accused candidates and concluded that 10 of them had indulged in exam irregularities; OMR sheets were tampered with to ensure higher marks

KPSC SCAM

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU



SEBASTIAN FRANCIS

A Forensic Science Laboratory (FSL) report has confirmed that the OMR (optical mark recognition) sheets of 10 candidates were tampered with to ensure higher marks during the exam conducted by the Karnataka Public Service Commission (KPSC) to recruit 24 Assistant Executive Engineers (AEE) for the Department of Rural Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation.

After allegations were made against the exams held on July 1 and 2, 2023, a sub-committee of the KPSC, headed by Vijaykumar Kuchanure, started the investigation on March 15, 2024. They secured the original OMR answering sheets, CCTV camera footage of the examination hall, and other materials. Later, they also obtained carbon copies of the OMR sheets from the candidates. Then, they also got the hard disk and footage of the strongroom where the OMR sheets are kept.

"On verification of the original OMR answer sheets, CCTV footage of the candidates in their examination centres, and other available material, the sub-committee found lapses. Then it decided to refer the material for scientific investigation and seek the opinion from experts," stated the report, detailing how they came to refer the material to the FSL for a scientific investigation.

The FSL examined the material closely. For example, it superimposed the original OMR sheet with the carbon copies to see if they matched or if some answers were marked later. The report identified several discrepancies.

For example, in one instance, a candidate had answered only 11 questions during the examination and 89 answers were found to be tampered with later. In another case, 16 were found to be originally answered, while 73 were tampered with. The FSL arrived at this by comparing the pressure used while circling the answers. "The answering circles of 16 have similar pressure impressions and the remaining 73 have different pressures," stated the sub-committee report, based on the FSL report.

In the case of another candidate, in the C-Series General Paper-1, 92 answering circles had been filled with two different inks. The candidate filled 18 answering circles with one type of ink and 74 with another type, it was found. In one more case, in V-Series Specific Paper-2, the shape and size of the encircling pattern of 11 answering circles were found to be different when compared with the remaining answering circles of 88.

On what conclusions could be drawn from the CCTV footage, the report said that the marking of answers on the OMR sheets by the candidates "is not properly visible". "Hence, it is not possible to compare the body language and non-verbal cues of the candidates present in the video files with respect to the candidates' written responses on the OMR sheets," stated the report.

After receiving the FSL report, the sub-committee interrogated the accused candidates and concluded that 10 of them had indulged in examination irregularities.

'No satisfactory reply'

"The tainted candidates were given an opportunity of being heard and they submitted their explanations which were of total denial. Except for pleading their innocence, they did not put forth satisfactory explanations in proof of their innocence. The entire material available on record establishes the act of malpractice in the selection of these candidates. Therefore, their explanation does not inspire the confidence of the sub-committee," stated the report.

The sub-committee, which has submitted its report to the government, has recommended the cancellation of the selection of the 10 candidates.

(This is the second of a three-part series on irregularities in KPSC exam.)

FKCCI demands reforms in growth agencies of State

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Federation of Karnataka Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FKCCI) has submitted a pre-Budget memorandum to Chief Minister Siddaramaiah seeking reforms in the operations of the Karnataka Industrial Areas Development Board (KIADB) and the Karnataka State Small Industries Development Corporation (KSSIDC), agencies that promote industrial development in the State. To promote micro and small industries, the KIADB should reserve 30% of the land for MSME in industrial areas, said M.G. Balakrishna, president of the FKCCI, in the memorandum.

The FKCCI also suggested that industrial areas should be complete with all infrastructure so that the MSMEs could kick start operations. The KIADB and the KSSIDC should provide common effluent treatment plants in the industrial areas; Karnataka State Pollution Control Board should avoid collection charges for analysing waste water, emissions etc., from industrial establishment and also for insisting analysis from third party agency/laboratory by the industrial units, it suggested. For investment revival and infrastructure, the trade body also asked for a separate policy for the MSMEs. It said a State-specific procurement policy for sourcing products and services from MSMEs in the State would do a lot of good to thousands of entrepreneurs.

The FKCCI also pressed for government's support for digital transformation of the MSMEs as digitisation is extremely critical for economic growth.

On tax issues, the trade body said, the government has to increase the value of invoice for e-way bill from ₹50,000 to ₹1 lakh while considering levying commercial tax.

Kuvempu's ideology can build a just society: H.K. Patil

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Minister for Law, Parliamentary Affairs, and Tourism H.K. Patil emphasised the significance of adopting the ideologies of Kannada poet Kuvempu in daily life to foster a just society. Speaking at the Kuvempu National Award presentation ceremony at Ravindra Kalakshetra on Saturday, Mr. Patil said Kuvempu's literature remains meaningful only when his principles are actively followed. He also highlighted the importance of the extensive collection of books worth over ₹3 crore, preserved at Kuvempu's residence at Kuppalli, as a remarkable contribution to the literary world.

This year's award was presented to Gujarati writer Himanshi Indulal Sheth. Minister for Kannada and Culture Shivaraj S. Thangadagi commended the Kuvempu Pratishthana for its work in both literary and social services.

Pratishthana president B.L. Shankar said the award consists a purse of ₹5 lakh, a silver medal, and a citation.

Wipro Earthian Awards presented

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Wipro Ltd. hosted the 14th edition of the Wipro Earthian Awards for 2024 at Azim Premji University in Bengaluru on Saturday.

The 2024 edition received over 1,500 project submissions.

After evaluation by an independent jury, 23 winning entries and 43 shortlisted projects were selected.

The winning teams, drawn from various schools across India, showcased their knowledge and commitment to biodiversity, waste management, and water conservation.

कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम
(श्रम एवं रोजगार मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार)
EMPLOYEES' STATE INSURANCE CORPORATION
(Ministry of Labour & Employment, Govt. of India)
क.रा.बी.नि. ESIC
कर्मचारी राज्य बीमा निगम अस्पताल, पीन्या सं. 11-55-1, प्लॉट सं.1, 5वां मेन रोड (एफ.टी.आई. कैंपस) बसवंतपुर उपनगर, यशवंतपुर, पो-ऑ. बैंगलूरू. 560022
ESIC Hospital Peenya, 55-1-11, Plot No.1, 5th Main Road (FTI Campus), Survey N. 11, Yeshwanthapur, Bengaluru-560022
Ph.No. 080-29723468, E-mail: ms-peenya.ka@esic.nic.in

No.492/A/12/13/Rectt/2014/Estt Date: 13.02.2025

WALK-IN INTERVIEW ON 04.03.2025
FOR ENGAGEMENT OF SENIOR RESIDENTS UNDER THREE YEARS RESIDENCY SCHEME AT ESIC HOSPITAL, PEENYA, BANGALORE ON CONTRACT BASIS.

WALK-IN INTERVIEW ON 05.03.2025
FOR ENGAGEMENT OF FULL TIME/PART TIME SUPERSPECIALIST AND FULL TIME/ PART TIME SPECIALISTS AT ESIC HOSPITAL, PEENYA BANGALORE ON CONTRACT BASIS.

Employees State Insurance Corporation, Hospital, Peenya, Bengaluru intends to engage the services of **Senior Resident Under three years residency scheme, Full Time/Part Time Superspecialist and Full Time/Part Time Specialist** on contract basis.

• Reservation as per Govt. of India guidelines.

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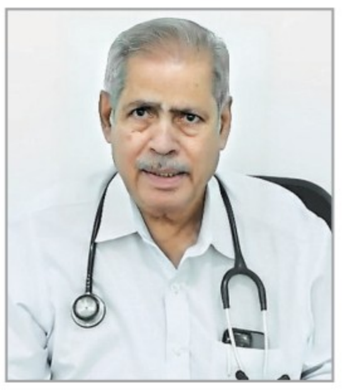
Comprehensive Diagnosis Under One Roof

-Kanva launches its third diagnostic centre



Dr H M Venkatappa
Managing Director

When ailments inflict, invariably a range of tests require to be done, each proving to be not only expensive but many times needing a visit to different diagnostic centres as not all tests are available under one roof. Just as the testing may call for visits to multiple centres, access to specialists for assessment of the test reports again calls for similar varied visits which can be extremely taxing especially in ill health.

Recognising these travails of patients, septuagenarian Dr Venkatappa, way back in 1996 decided to open a diagnostic centre where all the tests would feature under one umbrella, including the availability of super specialists along with general physicians to assess the reports generated. Hailing from interior Karnataka, Dr Venkatappa joined government service after completing his postgraduation in medicine from Bangalore Medical College. On completing 24 years of service, he chose to take voluntary retirement to start the diagnostic centre where "patients will not require to shuttle from one centre to another to undergo various tests."

Setting up Kanva

Kanva Diagnostic Centre was thus born in the West of Bengaluru, Rajajinagar, the multiple facilities housed in one building spanning four levels. Be it to address heart ailments, diabetes, cancer detection, bone and spine related diagnosis, abdominal dysfunctions, gynaecology, or any other disorder, the entire gambit of tests are available using the latest technologies, making the diagnostic centre the one stop option for any prognosis. Added to this is the presence of over 30 super specialists belonging to different fields of medicine having their consultation hours through the day to support the general physicians, which in turn makes the diagnostic centre most a sought after destination when illness strikes.

Initiating the second centre

Given the immense popularity and footfall of over 700 patients per day garnered at the centre, Dr Venkatappa decided to start a second diagnostic centre in Nagarbhavi spanning over 70,000 Sqft spread across four levels. The latest technologies and high-end facilities were replicated there, making this centre once again totally comprehensive in its address for both testing as well as diagnosis. "This centre too proved to be equally popular, inviting over 800 patients each day for testing and diagnosis", says Dr Venkatappa. "This high footfall clearly indicated the dearth of such diagnostic centres in the city where all the testing facilities are available under one roof at affordable rates."

Keeping costs low

Incidentally, a factor that makes Kanva a hugely sought after diagnostic centre is the costing of the major tests which many times prove to be out of reach of common man. "We have deliberately kept the cost of our tests at 30 per cent lower than the market rate charged by corporate hospitals and high-end diagnostic centres. Even though our centre features on top of the charts in terms of state-of-the-art facilities and latest technologies in testing, we keep the charges low by working on thin margins and addressing the revenue through play of volumes", Dr Venkatappa elaborates.

Launching of third centre

The huge success of the second centre once again prompted Dr Venkatappa to contemplate opening one more centre in the CBD area of the city and this culminated in inaugurating recently the third diagnostic centre in Koramangala, where the latest technologies and testing facilities are housed in a 70,000 Sqft space spread over four levels. "The centre currently has 125 paramedical staff but will soon scale this up to over 200 once footfall increases, to match the staff strength in the other two diagnostic centres." Interestingly, the staff here is majorly female, accounting for 70 per cent, in keeping with Dr Venkatappa's vision to empower women.

In-house medical facilities

All the three centres also house outpatient treatment facilities once an ailment is diagnosed after completing the tests. "In case the ailment requires admission and longer hospitalised treatment, our specialists also assist in giving the right advice for suitable treatment choices in appropriate medical centres", clarifies Dr Venkatappa. For those who need regular, periodic testing for an ailment, such as in the case of severe diabetes, dialysis, yearly packages are on offer to keep the costs further low for the patients.

Medical diagnosis of various ailments has come far, aiding in speedy recovery through the appropriate and timely treatment given based on the reliable results of the tests conducted. Centres like Kanva have gone a step further in not only facilitating the availability of the latest technologies for testing, all under one roof, but also effectively addressing the affordability factor, thus making testing and diagnosis using state of the art facilities is available to the common man.

INBRIEF

Lab reports confirm bird flu at Deeplanagar in A.P.

Yet another place in Andhra Pradesh's NTR district, Deeplanagar in A. Konduru mandal, has reported mass mortality of 3,000 broiler birds, and the lab reports have confirmed the cause of their death as H5N1 virus that causes bird flu. "We have begun culling of backyard poultry, numbering around 270 in Deeplanagar," a senior official said. With the latest confirmation, the number of birds that died of bird flu in the district stands at around 10,000.

Eight held with 600 kg ganja in Anakapalli district of A.P.

The Payakaraopeta police, acting on a tip-off, arrested eight people and seized around 600 kg of ganja during a raid at an isolated place in Anakapalli district of Andhra Pradesh on Friday. The seized contraband is estimated to cost around ₹60 lakh. Preliminary investigation revealed that a person hailing from Payakaraopeta had procured the ganja from the interior parts of Odisha, with plans to sell it.

Hate speech: BJP leader seeks time to appear before police

Amid speculations of his imminent arrest in a hate speech case, Kerala BJP leader P.C. George on Saturday sought more time to appear before police for interrogation. The Erattupetta police on Saturday morning served notice at his residence directing him to appear for an interrogation in the afternoon. In a letter to the Deputy Superintendent of Police in Pala, Mr. George expressed his willingness to cooperate with the police and citing 'health reasons', said he will appear before Monday noon.

Invest Kerala summit wraps up with ₹1.52 lakh cr. boost

Industries Minister P. Rajeeve says 374 companies have shown interest to invest ₹8,500 crore in new establishments, generating 60,000 jobs during the two-day Invest Kerala Global Summit

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The two-day Invest Kerala Global Summit concluded here on Saturday with the State government securing Expression of Interests for ₹1,52,905 crore in investments from 374 companies, including 25 Information Technology firms, who will invest ₹8,500 crore in new establishments and expansion, generating 60,000 jobs.

Industries Minister P. Rajeeve, who announced the quantum of potential investments, said the figures were realistic and that the Invest Kerala Global Summit marked a major landmark in a journey to turn Kerala into an investor-friendly destination.

Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan interacts with IT leaders at the Invest Kerala Global Summit in Kochi on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

He said each EoI would get individual attention from the government, which would set up committees to monitor the progress of every investment proposal. A dashboard-based follow-up would be in place and a dedicated toll-free phone number and email for enquiries on the investment proposals would be up in a week. There will be nodal officers to follow up each proposal and the process will be monitored at the Chief Secretary level through periodic reviews.

Mr. Rajeeve said the State government would explore several fronts to increase the investment. These include the setting up of a high-level committee to follow up on the recommendations on using plantation land.

The State has proposed to delegations from countries like Norway to opt for work from Kerala, a concept that received great response.

During the summit, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan met business delegations, 50 business people in person, GCC representatives and addressed the community of diplomats.

T.N. will not implement NEP at any cost: Stalin

The Hindu Bureau
CUDDALORE

Ruling out the possibility of implementing the National Education Policy (NEP) at any cost, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin said on Saturday that his government was against the policy as it was detrimental to the interest of students and for the State at large.

Addressing the seventh zonal conference of the State Parent Teacher Association at Veppur in Cuddalore district, he said his government would not implement the new legislation even if the Union government was going to stall fund allocation.

"You have stopped funds to the tune of around ₹2,000 crore for not implementing the NEP. If we decide to introduce the policy, we will take the State backward by 2,000 years. So, even if the State is offered ₹10,000 crore, the government will not introduce the NEP so long as I am the Chief Minister," Mr. Stalin said, addressing the parents and teachers from seven districts at the event.

Language imposition

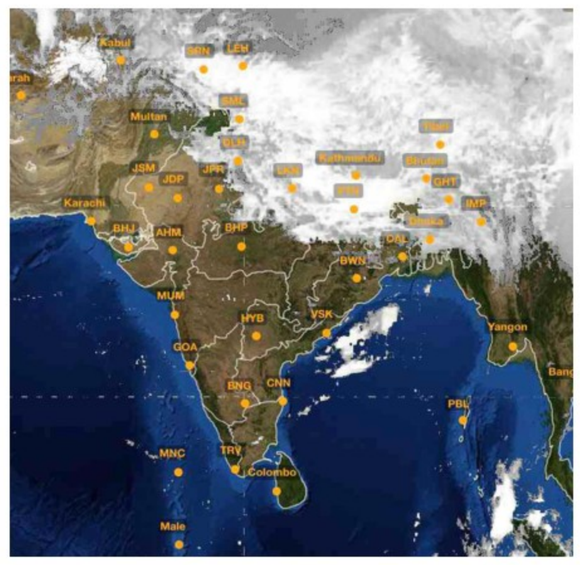
Stating that his government was not against any language, including Hindi, the Chief Minister said the government was only against the imposition of Hindi over Tamil. Those keen on learning Hindi are free to join Kendriya Vidyalaya Schools and classes conducted by the Hindi Prachara Sabha, he said.

"We are against the NEP not because of the factor of imposing Hindi alone, the policy, if introduced, will keep students away from schools because of its structure, including the assessment for Class 3, 5, and 8. Students will not turn up to schools. The policy is also against the concept of social justice and equity and the interest of the socially marginalised, including those from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes," Mr. Stalin said.

The State followed the two-language policy and was able to provide quality education, which was acknowledged by the Central government itself.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Sunday: Thundersquall accompanied with gusty winds/hailstorm/lightning likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Sikkim, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha and Chhattisgarh. Dense fog conditions likely in isolated pockets of Sikkim

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	30.5	18.0	Kozhikode	—	33.2	27.2
Ahmedabad	—	34.5	19.3	Kurnool	—	38.0	23.1
Aizawl	—	30.7	13.1	Lucknow	—	27.5	15.1
Allahabad	—	29.7	16.0	Madurai	—	35.1	22.6
Bengaluru	—	33.2	19.4	Mangaluru	—	33.9	25.5
Bhopal	—	29.0	12.0	Mumbai	—	37.2	20.4
Bhubaneswar	—	32.4	19.5	Mysuru	—	33.6	15.7
Chandigarh	—	23.9	11.3	New Delhi	—	24.7	12.5
Chennai	—	33.1	23.0	Patna	—	30.0	18.5
Coimbatore	—	34.6	21.9	Port Blair	—	32.1	25.7
Dehradun	—	23.8	11.6	Puducherry	—	32.9	23.0
Gangtok	13	15.8	7.3	Pune	—	38.1	20.1
Goa	—	35.0	25.0	Raipur	—	34.4	17.9
Guwahati	1	27.8	15.3	Ranchi	—	29.4	16.9
Hubballi	—	37.0	19.0	Shillong	—	19.2	9.9
Hyderabad	—	35.7	20.7	Shimla	—	18.4	7.9
Imphal	—	26.5	16.1	Srinagar	—	15.2	3.2
Jaipur	—	26.6	13.2	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.0	23.0
Kochi	—	31.2	26.2	Tiruchi	—	33.7	22.6
Kohima	—	20.6	10.9	Vijayawada	—	33.8	21.0
Kolkata	—	31.0	20.6	Visakhapatnam	—	31.6	24.7

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.98	100	21	272	211	
Bengaluru	8	—	48	107	95	
Chennai	.10	.15	30	76	68	
Delhi	.28	.84	—	224	136	
Hyderabad	.12	.51	61	118	136	
Kolkata	.8	.70	29	71	89	
Lucknow	.10	.80	46	189	160	
Mumbai	.11	.88	10	99	176	
Pune	.17	126	41	234	166	
Visakhapatnam	—	—	15	—	—	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sasaram, Bihar recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 292 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Concerns over misuse of WhatsApp for transplants

Siddharth Kumar Singh
HYDERABAD

Health authorities have raised concerns over the misuse of WhatsApp groups by unauthorised individuals, including quacks, to influence organ transplantation procedures.

In-charge of Jeevandan Cadaver Transplantation Dr. Sree Bhushan Raju issued a circular warning hospitals against unethical practices and urging them to adhere to protocols.

The circular follows the recent bust of an illegal kidney transplant racket at Saroor Nagar, which has put the spotlight on the misuse of digital platforms in organ transplantation.

Shades of yellow

Dry gold: Farmers segregate dried turmeric, which is selling at ₹12,000 a quintal, at the Nizamabad Agriculture Market Yard on Saturday. Nizamabad district of Telangana is one of the largest producers of turmeric in India. NAGARA GOPAL

Responsibility to save caste survey is with BCs: Revanth

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy saw a conspiracy against the Backward Classes by the parties and groups that were targeting him despite he initiating the BC caste survey for the first time in India. It is the responsibility of the BCs to save this exercise or else they would end up being the losers, he added.

"There seems to be a conspiracy by the BRS and the BJP and also some BC leaders who are raking up unnecessary controversies to defame the exercise either to scuttle the BC reservations or for personal gain," he said, addressing the representatives of various BC associations on Saturday.

Telangana CM A. Revanth Reddy addressing the BC associations on Saturday.

"I have done my job and you now have to save this exercise taken up for the first time in the country in the most scientific method," Mr. Reddy said.

Railways withdraws controversial circular issued for loco pilots

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram division, has withdrawn the controversial circular it issued for loco pilots restricting the use of homoeopathic medicine, soft drinks, tender coconut water, some kinds of plantains, cough syrup, mouthwash, and so on ahead of signing for duty.

The circular was withdrawn against the backdrop of a protest by the loco pilots.

Test positive for alcohol

The Railways issued the extraordinary circular after the number of local pilots testing positive for alcohol ahead of duty went up.

However, subsequent blood tests at the chemical examiner's laboratory revealed that alcohol content in almost all blood samples was nearly zero.

When asked, the loco pilots said they had consumed products mentioned in the circular ahead of duty, said railway sources. However, the false breathalyser test led to a protest and directly affected smooth train operations.

Following this, the Railways issued the circular, inviting the wrath of running staff.

Officials said the circular was issued as the Railways could not afford to halt trains for about two hours until the staff was medically certified by a doctor, said the sources.

On the other hand, the loco pilots had argued that the circular was arbitrary and infringed upon their personal freedom.

Increase funds for mitigating human-wildlife conflict in Wayanad, Priyanka tells Pinarayi

The Hindu Bureau
KOZHIKODE

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, Wayanad MP, has urged Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan to increase the funds for mitigating man-animal conflicts in Wayanad and Malappuram districts. She also suggested despatching a specialised team, to be formed in consultation with the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests (MoEF), to these areas to take steps for the protection of human lives and habitations that fall within high-risk zones.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

In a letter to Mr. Vijayan on February 20, she pointed out that the State government had been delaying releasing of funds for the protection of human habitations. "It is my understanding that the funds required for adequate measures to be taken for the protection of human habitations that lie in and around the forest areas are not available to the local administration."

Ms. Vadra also said that the district authorities in Wayanad had conveyed to her that they required a considerable increase in funds for the acquisition of thermal drones, camera traps, live CCTV cameras, and radio collars to monitor animal movement.

Ms. Vadra said there was an increasing level of fear among the local people.

Wayanad landslide proves very costly for Kerala Tourism, growth rate drops to 1.7%

Dhinesh Kallungal
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The disastrous landslides in Wayanad in 2024, which claimed 254 lives, with 44 individuals still unaccounted for, seems to have proved costly for tourism in the State with the growth rate plummeting in 2024.

In 2024, Kerala attracted 2.22 crore domestic tourists, against the previous record of 2.128 crore, an increase of just 1.7%. In 2023, Kerala witnessed a tourist footfall of 2.18 crore, an increase of 15.92% compared to the 1.88 crore domestic tourists in 2022. The average growth of domestic tourism in Kerala during the pre-pandemic era was slightly less than 10%.

With tourists staying away from the hill stations due to fear of landslides, tourism activity in Kerala is badly affected.

The drop in growth rate is attributed to the catastrophic landslide in Wayanad, as tourism activities in the State, especially in the hill stations, including Idukki, were badly affected, with tourists staying away from the hill stations.

Soon after the landslide, Kerala Tourism launched a campaign to salvage the sector's prospects, including the social media campaign with the catchphrase 'Ente Keralam Ennum Sundaram' (My Kerala is ever beautiful). Advertisements featuring Wayanad were shown in cinema houses in the neighbouring States and broadcast through FM radio.

"The campaigns helped Kerala gain tourists' trust. However, the immediate effect of the landslide took a big toll on the tourism activities in the State. Further, the high domestic airfare to the State prompted a section of tourists to opt for countries in the far east since the fares were lower, said James Kodianthara, chairman of the Kerala chapter of the Indian Association of Tour Operators.

From Page One

Push to surrender weapons gets support

The previous day, a .303 rifle, magazines, bullet-proof jackets, helmets and a "looted tear gas gun" were surrendered in Kakching and Kangpokpi districts.

On February 20, the Governor appealed to people from all communities in the ethnic violence-hit State to surrender looted police weapons by February 26 and warned of strict action otherwise.

A senior government official said security forces, including the police and the army, have been asked to wait for the conclusion of the amnesty period and give the communities adequate opportunity to surrender the weapons before a crackdown begins.

On February 21, the Assam Rifles conducted an operation in the Kakching district where 26 armed members of Arambai Tenggol, a radical Meitei outfit were apprehended. The arrests were followed by protests led by women volunteers or the Meira Paibis who had an altercation with the security forces. At least ten of the apprehended individuals were juveniles and were released on compassionate grounds due to the ongoing board examinations, a defence source said.

A police official said that winning people's trust was essential so that they are encouraged to surrender the weapons and that coercive steps may backfire.

The Assam Rifles recovered 11 weapons, a toy pistol, walkie-talkie sets, bullet-proof jackets and ₹2.5 lakh cash from the suspects.

Manipur Police has instructed all police districts to deposit the recovered 'looted police weapons and ammunition' either with the Army formations or the Assam Rifles for "safe custody."

The instructions were first issued on January 3, the day Mr. Bhalla took charge as Governor, Manipur.

Kuki-Zo demands

On Saturday, Mr. Bhalla visited Kangpokpi where he met the members of the Kuki-Zo Council (KZC).

The KZC demanded better roads, health facilities and infrastructure for the hill districts, which they said have remained neglected since May 2023.

A nine-page memorandum was submitted to Mr. Bhalla which said that internally displaced people should get subsistence and relief packages from the government, irrespective of where they choose to reside, whether in camps, villages or rented premises.

PM should respond to Trump's claim: Cong.

Mr. Khera alleged that the BJP-RSS ecosystem was making wild allegations to strengthen a fake narrative against credible civil society members, NGOs and political parties. "They must not only be named and shamed on public forums, but legal action must also be taken against them for spreading lies and misleading the nation," he added. Several BJP leaders have said the money went to civil society organisations sympathetic to the Congress.

Citing data analysis by a news organisation, Mr. Khera said the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has disbursed a total of $2.9 billion to India between 2001 and 2024. He claimed that $1.3 billion, or 44.4%, of this money was given during the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance regime (2014-2024) while India received $1.2 billion in grants, or 41.3%, during the Congress-led United Progressive Alliance regime (2004-2013).

'Who benefited?'

Mr. Khera claimed that USAID had disbursed $650 million to India between 2021 and 2024. "Why and for what purposes did the Modi government receive $650 million between FY21 and FY24?" he asked. The Congress leader added that the first batch of funds $365,000 meant to support "democratic participation and civil society" came in the U.S. financial year 2012-2013, which starts from October 1, 2012.

"During 2012, the Anna Hazare movement was at its peak, Arvind Kejriwal was making his own party, CM Narendra Modi was gearing to be the BJP's PM candidate. So, who benefited from these funds? Who got 282 seats in the Lok Sabha?" Mr. Khera asked.

He also claimed that USAID had started the Cashless India campaign in October 2016, a month before demonetisation was announced by Mr. Modi. "Even Modi ji's much hyped Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has a USAID stamp. If the Modi government considers USAID such a pariah, then why did it partner with them for Swachh Bharat Mission, where it worked with GOI in 73 cities?" the Congress leader asked, retirating his party's demand for a comprehensive White Paper on the issue.

Trump on paper ballots

In a post on X, Congress leader K.C. Venugopal also referred to the U.S. President's remarks urging U.S. Governors to switch to paper ballots and same-day voting, and asked if the Mr. Modi would follow Mr. Trump's advice.

"Will PM Modi pay heed to his best friend Donald Trump's message on ballot papers and same day voting, and address the concerns of the whole nation about the integrity of our electoral process? I'm sure his best friend will also be appalled at the abnormal increase of lakhs of voters in Maharashtra, or the surgical deletions of opposition votes," Mr. Venugopal said.

DRDO's indigenous submarine plan to go for approval in a few months

Design phase expected to take up to three years, with another five years required for construction, says official; project aims for 90% to 95% indigenous content; contract negotiations to start soon for separate deal to buy six new submarines

Dinakar Peri
NEW DELHI

With the deal to buy six new diesel-electric submarines entering the contract negotiation phase, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is gearing up to bring a proposal to design and develop an indigenous conventional submarine to the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) for approval.

The procurement deal comes under Project-75I, while the indigenous development proposal comes under Project-76.

"The inter-ministerial consultation is going on and it should be ready for CCS approval in the next two months," said an official. "Once approved, the design phase is expected to take two to three years, and another five years is required for construction. So it is expected to take around eight years to have the first submarine, once the project is sanctioned," the source said.

The indigenous submarine is expected to displace around 3,000 tonnes and will be capable of launching land attack cruise missiles (LACMs), which are still under development, from its torpedo tubes. A new LACM being developed by the DRDO fits the criteria, sources said.

Comanding seas: The sixth Scorpene submarine of Project-75, *Vaghsheer*, launched on April 20, 2022, from the Kanhoji Angre Wet Basin of Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. ANI

As reported by *The Hindu* last June, the DRDO carried out a preliminary study to determine the contours of P-76, after a go-ahead from the Defence Ministry. P-76 will be a continuation of the Advanced Technology Vessel (ATV) project, under which the Arihant series of nuclear ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) are being built, with another project under way to build nuclear-powered attack submarines (SSN). The project is aiming for 90% to 95% indigenous content, with major systems being sourced domestically including the weapons, missiles, combat management system, sonars, communications, electronic warfare suite, mast, and periscope. Only some chips, electronics, and tubes will have to be imported, sources said, adding that the indigenous SSBNs also have over 90% indigenous content.

Parallel development

Meanwhile, the P-75I tender for six conventional submarines is set to begin contract negotiations after long delays, with the bid by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) in partnership with Germany's ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems (TKMS) having cleared the technical evaluation.

The deal is estimated at around ₹70,000 crore, way above the earlier benchmark of ₹43,000 crore. The final contract is expected to take at least a couple of years given the tough negotiations, and the first submarine will be delivered seven years later. This means that the P-75I and P-76 programmes will progress almost in parallel, if the development of the latter goes as per plan.

The indigenous SSN programme is also in the design phase, which is expected to take four to five years, with another five years estimated for the construction and validation of the first submarine. From the proof of concept to the final construction plan, there are four stages of development, another source said.

The Navy currently has 17 conventional submarines in service, but the majority of them are ageing platforms. A contract for three more Scorpene-class submarines is set to be signed very soon, with the first of the them likely to be delivered in 2030.

Landmine explosion injures soldier in Poonch

The Hindu Bureau
JAMMU

A soldier was injured on Saturday in an explosion close to the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch district of the Pir Panjal valley. In Reasi district, a militant hideout was busted and arms were seized.

An official said a landmine went off near the LoC during an Army patrol in the morning. The incident left one soldier injured. Preliminary reports suggest that the cause of the explosion was "accidental stepping" on the landmine.

The injured soldier was airlifted to Udhampur for advanced treatment, the official said.

Official sources said security forces launched a large-scale area-domination exercise in the Pir Panjal and Chenab Valleys in the Jammu division on Saturday.

During an operation, security forces busted a terrorist hideout in Mahore in Reasi.

Four magazines, one filled, three empty; 268 rounds of AK47 rifle ammunition; four under barrel grenade launchers; and four packets of detonators were seized, officials said.

J&K Police face flak for pulling down board urging tourists to avoid liquor

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

The Jammu and Kashmir Police's move to remove a hoarding urging tourists to avoid liquor and spitting evoked a sharp reaction from political parties on Saturday.

The Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) launched a signature campaign in favour of a Bill seeking a ban on liquor sale in J&K.

The Traders Association Central Lal Chowk Srinagar erected the hoarding on Friday.

"Welcome, Dear Tourists," it read, "We kindly request: Love and cherish your family. Avoid liquor, drugs, spitting on roads and smoking. Respect our culture and tradition, stay blessed and enjoy your time in our enchanting city."

A trader told *The Hindu* there were growing cases of inebriated tourists creating a scene at Ghanta Ghar, or Clock Tower, in Lal Chowk, the main commercial hub of Srinagar. For unknown reasons, the J&K Police, which comes under the Lieutenant-Governor's administration, removed the hoarding.

Pushing for prohibition: PDP workers hold placards for an alcohol ban in J&K, in Srinagar on Saturday. IMRAN NISSAR

National Conference (NC) MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi questioned the police's action.

"Even appealing to tourists to respect local sensitivities is now illegal in Kashmir. Will the J&K Police clarify which law was violated by the signboard? Or is the only law in place the one that silences Kashmiris?"

He said the colonial L-G administration in cahoots with the security forces had turned Kashmir into an Orwellian nightmare, where people could not protest, safeguard their identity, or even speak for their culture.

PDP leader Iltija Mufti, who launched a signature campaign to press for a ban on the sale of liquor in J&K, termed the police action in Lal Chowk "unfortunate".

Scores of PDP supporters, including students and women, signed the anti-liquor campaign at the party headquarters.

"Our MLA Kupwara Fayaz Mir has introduced a Bill in the J&K Assembly on alcohol ban. This is an attempt to create awareness among people. All J&K political parties should support the PDP's Bill in the upcoming session of the J&K assembly," Ms. Mufti, the daughter of PDP president Mehbooba Mufti, said.

'Pakistan frees 22 Indian fishermen from Karachi jail'

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistani authorities have released 22 Indian fishermen from Karachi's Malir Jail and are likely to hand them over to India on Saturday, according to a media report.

The fishermen were freed from the jail on Friday after the completion of their sentences, *The Express Tribune* newspaper quoted Jail Superintendent Arshad Shah as saying.

Faisal Edhi, chairman of the Edhi Foundation, arranged transportation for the fishermen to Lahore, from where they will continue their journey back to India.

The Edhi Foundation covered their travel expenses.

Mr. Edhi urged both governments to adopt a more compassionate approach toward fishermen who unintentionally cross maritime boundaries. He highlighted the suffering of their families and called for their release and swift repatriation once their sentences were completed.

Pakistani authorities repatriate Indian fishermen through the Wagah border, where Indian authorities facilitate their return to coastal communities after completing official formalities. The two countries regularly arrest fishermen as they cross into the waters of the other country due to the poorly demarcated sea frontiers.

According to the lists of prisoners exchanged between the two countries on January 1, there were 266 Indian prisoners in Pakistan and 462 Pakistanis in Indian jails.

Complaint against Farah Khan over remark on Holi festival

Press Trust of India
MUMBAI

A criminal complaint has been lodged against filmmaker Farah Khan for allegedly terming Holi a festival of "*chhapris* (uncultured)", a Mumbai Police official said on Saturday.

The police have not filed a first information report on the complaint by social media influencer Vikas Jayram Phatak (45), alias Hindustani Bhau, on Friday. The complainant demanded legal action against Khan, alleging that the "*chhapri*" remark made by her on a television show on Thursday insulted the religious feelings of Hindus.

"No FIR has been registered yet. Inquiry is on," a Khar police station official said without elaborating.

India, Bhutan enjoy exemplary ties of friendship and cooperation: MEA

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

India and Bhutan enjoy "exemplary ties" of friendship and cooperation, based on trust, goodwill and mutual understanding at all levels, and the visit of Prime Minister Tshering Tobgay was in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between the two countries, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Saturday.

Mr. Tobgay paid an official visit to India on February 20 and 21 to participate in the inaugural leadership conclave of the School of Ultimate Leadership (SOUL) which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi here. He had a meeting with Mr. Modi, the MEA said in a statement.

Bilateral bonds: Narendra Modi with Tshering Tobgay at the SOUL Leadership Conclave in New Delhi on Friday. ANI

"Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw; Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs Kiren Rijiju; Minister of State for External Affairs Pabitra Margherita and other senior officials of the Government of India called on the Prime Minister of Bhutan during his visit," it said.

"The visit of the Prime Minister of Bhutan is in keeping with the tradition of regular high-level exchanges between India and Bhutan, a hallmark of the special partnership," it added.

In his keynote address at the conclave, Mr. Tobgay described Mr. Modi as his "elder brother" and "mentor", and sought his guidance to help him contribute in transforming public service in the neighbouring country.

Mr. Tobgay made liberal use of Hindi that drew applause from the audience.

"Without a doubt, I see the image of an elder brother in you, who always guides me and helps me," he said.

Mr. Tobgay termed the SOUL initiative a "brainchild of Modi", adding that it is yet another testament to his unwavering commitment to nurturing authentic leaders and empowering them to serve the great republic of India.

New rule lets shops to work non-stop in Chhattisgarh

The Hindu Bureau
RAIPUR

The Chhattisgarh government has implemented the New Shops and Establishments Act that allows traders to keep their shops open seven days a week and 24 hours a day.

A statement issued by the government on Saturday said the new policy was implemented to boost trade and create new employment opportunities, while noting that the rule would not be applicable for liquor shops.

The new flexibility comes with a rider that each worker employed at a commercial establishment will receive a mandatory weekly holiday, and no employee can be made to work for more than eight hours a day, said a government official.

Will welcome Nishant if he joins politics, says Tejashwi

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader Tejashwi Yadav on Saturday said he would welcome it if rumours were to be believed that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's son Nishant Kumar was entering politics.

"I will welcome Nishant if he joins politics, he is like my brother. In a democracy, everyone is allowed to join politics. If he feels that he wants to serve society, he should join politics. I do not have any problem with it," Mr. Yadav told presspersons in Patna.

While speaking to presspersons on Friday, Mr. Nishant reiterated that he would urge the people of Bihar to vote for his father and make him the Chief Minister again. He also said that his father was 100% healthy and physically fit to run the State.

However, he downplayed the question of his joining politics.

Nepal PM Oli hoping for invitation to visit India in first half of 2025: FM

A delay in traditional visit reflects some strain in ties, possibly exacerbated by the PM's visit to Beijing in November; Minister describes recent talks with India as cordial, covering progress on hydropower projects, and resolution on overflight rights

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI/MUSCAT

Nepal awaits an invitation for its Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli to visit India, its Foreign Minister, Arzu Deuba Rana, said on Saturday.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, she expressed hope that Mr. Oli and Prime Minister Narendra Modi would meet on the sidelines of the BIMSTEC summit in Bangkok in April and Mr. Oli would be invited to New Delhi in the "first half" of 2025.

The comments by Ms. Rana, who has visited Delhi twice since the Oli government took charge in July 2024, indicate a strain in ties between Delhi and Kathmandu over the Modi government's unusual delay in hosting the Nepali PM. Mr. Oli travelled to Beijing in November 2024, which is believed to have further broadened the divide.

Pending talks: S. Jaishankar with Nepal Foreign Minister Arzu Rana Deuba during a meeting in Muscat on February 16. ANI

Ms. Rana, however, said she had cordial talks with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the sidelines of the Indian Ocean Conference in Muscat last week, where they discussed a number of other issues, including on quality control clearances for Nepali goods, progress on hydropower projects, and a long-pending resolution on overflight rights for airports at Pokhara and Bhairahawa.

Asked if the two Foreign Ministers had agreed on a specific date for Mr. Oli to travel to India, Ms. Rana said he would visit "whenever he is invited", indicating that no invitation has been proffered so far.

"That's the only answer I can give, and I hope it's going to be in the near future," Ms. Rana told *The Hindu* in an interview in Muscat.

Asked why there had been such a delay in the traditional invitation, Ms. Rana cited the Assembly elections in India. "I think primarily what I heard was because the Indian Prime Minister was busy with all the elections, and hopefully, by the first half of this year, Prime Minister Oli will have a visit," she added.

Ms. Rana dismissed suggestions that India's reticence stemmed from Mr. Oli's visit to China and the announcement of a Framework Agreement for Belt and Road Initiative Cooperation there, saying India had not objected formally to any of China's BRI projects for infrastructure. India opposes the BRI, although many South Asian neighbours are part of the network.

Confirming that India has raised objections to bringing hydropower from projects run by China to its Cross-Border South Asian Energy Grid, Ms. Rana said the matter had been resolved as there were enough river basins and projects for different agencies to produce hydel power in Nepal.

Significantly, Ms. Rana held out hope for a possible "win-win" solution to the issue of overflight rights.

India has thus far not cleared overflights for foreign airlines wishing to travel to the airports in Pokhara and Bhairahawa (Sidharth Nagar), ostensibly for security reasons. However, Ms. Rana said she hoped for a resolution by using higher altitude flight paths that would not pose a security issue for India and reserving lower altitude flights for regional airports.

Shaktikanta Das appointed Principal Secretary II to PM

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shaktikanta Das will work alongside Principal Secretary I P.K. Mishra.

Former Reserve Bank of India Governor Shaktikanta Das has been appointed Principal Secretary II to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said a notification issued by the Secretariat of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet on Saturday.

Mr. Das served as RBI Governor from 2018 to 2024, a crucial period for the Indian economy along with the uncertainty due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

His appointment is being seen as the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) bolstering its financial management expertise in the uncertain geo-economic situation prevailing currently.

Mr. Das, a Tamil Nadu-cadre Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 1980 batch, will work alongside Principal Secretary P.K. Mishra, who will continue in his post.

Changes in the Prime Minister's Office at this level have been rare under Mr. Modi, with former Principal Secretary Nripendra Misra retiring from the post only after he had served a whole term from 2014 to 2019.

Mr. P.K. Mishra had been serving as Additional Principal Secretary for a decade, and after Mr. Nripendra Misra's superannuation, he became the Principal Secretary.

Punjab Minister had charge of non-existent department

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

The Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab landed in a controversy on Saturday after a government notification said the Department of Administrative Reforms was "not in existence", though Cabinet Minister Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal took charge of it following a Cabinet reshuffle in 2023.

Chief Minister Bhagwant Mann had then relieved him of the Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare portfolio.

Mr. Dhaliwal now holds only the NRI Affairs portfolio.

The February 21 notification said, "In a partial modification of [an earlier] notification... regarding allocation of portfolios among Ministers, the Department of Administrative Reforms earlier allocated to Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal, Cabinet Minister, is not in existence as on date."

On the advice of the Chief Minister, the Governor is pleased to make the amendment effective February 2, the notification added.

Kuldeep Singh Dhaliwal

Mr. Mann, however, said only the name of the department was changed. "Earlier, the department only had a name; now we have changed the name and created a new unit to implement reforms," he told presspersons in Bhawanigarh.

Opposition parties, including the Congress and the Shiromani Akali Dal, hit out at the government. Senior SAD leader Bikram Singh Majithia said the very fact that Mr. Dhaliwal did not know that the department allotted to him 20 months ago did not exist spoke volumes about the state of governance under the AAP.

"Mr. Dhaliwal owes an explanation to Punjabis. This only proves that he did not call a meeting of the department for 20 months and did not carry out any administrative reforms in the State," he said in a statement.

'Not serious'

Senior Congress leader and Leader of the Opposition Partap Singh Bajwa said the issue yet again showed that the AAP was not serious about governance. "If the government is unaware about the existence of a department for two years, then what could be expected from it? It is unfortunate," he said.

The Punjab BJP posted on X, "So, Bhagwant Mann's government gave a ministerial portfolio that never existed for 21 months! This is AAP's 'good governance'? Punjab deserves better than this circus!"

Law Ministry to bring a new draft Bill to amend Advocates Act

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union Law Ministry on Saturday announced that it would bring in a new draft Bill to amend the Advocates Act after receiving public feedback on the existing draft Bill.

The Ministry, proposing to amend the Advocates Act by making sweeping changes in the definitions of what a legal practitioner and a law graduate mean, had put the draft of the Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025, on its website for public feedback and comments. However, members of the legal fraternity opposed certain amendments.

The U-turn on the draft Bill came after the Bar Council of India had written to Union Law Minister Arjun Ram Meghwal, stating that the proposed Bill seeks to undermine the "autonomy and independence of the Bar".

"The Advocates (Amendment) Bill, 2025, was made available for public consultation on February 13, 2025, on the website of the Department of Legal Affairs demonstrating the government's commitment to transparency and broader engagement with stakeholders and the public. However, considering the number of suggestions and concerns received, it has been decided to conclude the consultation process now. Based on the feedback received, the draft Bill, as revised will be processed afresh for consultation with stakeholders," a statement from the Law Ministry said.

"... Instead of creating a proper forum to allow lawyers to raise their grievances and issues, the proposed Bill takes away lawyers' rights to raise legitimate demands by way of a boycott or abstinence from work with the imposition of penal consequences," senior Congress leader Abhishek Manu Singhvi, who heads the party's legal cell, had said on Thursday.

Meeting between Punjab's protesting farmers, Union govt. remains inconclusive

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

Farmer leader Jagjit Singh Dallewal, who has been on an indefinite hunger strike, arrives in an ambulance for the meeting. PTI

Even as groups of farmers in Punjab have been protesting for over a year for their demands such as a legal guarantee for minimum support price (MSP) for crops, their meeting with the Union government on Saturday here remained inconclusive.

Union and State government representatives said the meeting was held in a 'positive' atmosphere in which elaborate discussions were held on MSP and the legal guarantee for it. Another round of meetings between the two sides will be held on March 19 in Chandigarh to continue the deliberations.

Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Union Consumer Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi, Union Commerce Minister Piyush Goyal, and farmer leaders Jagjit Singh Dallewal and Sarwan Singh Pandher attended the meeting. Punjab Agriculture Minister Gurmeet Singh Khuddian and Finance Minister Harpal Singh Cheema were present.

"We carefully listened to farmer leaders. It was a good discussion, and the next round of meetings will be held in Chandigarh on March 19," Mr. Chouhan told presspersons after the meeting.

"The important meeting was held in a positive atmosphere, in which a detailed discussion was held surrounding MSP and its legal guarantee. I am hopeful there will be a positive outcome.

The Union Ministers urged Mr. Dallewal to end his ongoing hunger strike, but he insisted that he would continue it till the demands were met," Mr. Cheema said.

There have been five rounds of meetings since February 2024, and the latest was the sixth meeting between the farmer leaders and the Centre.

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

Tender No : E-Tender No 52/2024-25/SE/PHC/CHN JJM-WSS to Aikkaranadu, Mazhuvannoor & Kunnathunadu Pt Laying RWPM and CWPM - Pipeline Work. **EMD :** Rs. 5,00,000/- **Tender fee :** Rs. 19518, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 10-03-2025, 03:00pm, **Phone :** 0484-2360645,
Website : **www.kwa.kerala.gov.in www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**

Superintending Engineer
PH Circle, Kochi

KWA-JB-GL-6-1165-2024-25

E5-4709/23 Date: 19.02.2025

THRISSUR CORPORATION - ELECTRICITY DEPARTMENT
e-TENDER NOTICE

The e-tenders should reach on or before 2 PM on 17.03.2025.
The e-Tender will be opened at 3 PM on 19.03.2025

The firm, which participates in the e-Tender must have GST Registration. e-Tenders are invited for the "e-Tender for the Selling Old Copper, Aluminium & Iron Poles" For more details please log on to www.etenders.kerala.gov.in, www.lsg.kerala.gov.in, www.tced.in **or contact Electricity Department, Thrissur Corporation on working hours (10.15 AM to 5.15 PM), PH: 0487-2423613**

Sd/- Assistant Secretary

TELANGANA BEVERAGES CORPORATION LIMITED (TGBCL)
(An authority on behalf of Government of Telangana)
D block 2nd floor, Prohibition & Excise Complex, 9 & 10 Eastern, M.J.Road, Nampally, Hyderabad — 500001

Lr.No. TGBCL/I/IMFL&FL/2025/

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR SUPPLY OF BRANDS BY NEW SUPPLIERS

TELANGANA BEVERAGES CORPORATION LIMITED (An authority on behalf of Government of Telangana, having exclusive privilege of wholesale trade in FL and IMFL in the state of Telangana) invites applications from the suppliers from the state or outside the state, who are not registered with TGBCL and intends to supply Foreign Liquor and Indian Made Foreign Liquor (including Beer, RTD & Wine) brands to TGBCL subject to the terms and conditions specified herein.

Details can be found on the website: **www.tgbcl.telangana.gov.in**

The applications in full shapes with all required enclosures have to be submitted at the office of the MD. TGBCL on or before 15.03.2025

Sd/- Managing Director,
Telangana Beverages Corporation Limited.

DIPR R.O. No. : 1042-PP/CL-AGENCY/ADVT/1/2024-25

icmr | VCRC
INDIAN COUNCIL OF MEDICAL RESEARCH | VECTOR CONTROL RESEARCH CENTRE

ICMR-VECTOR CONTROL RESEARCH CENTRE
INDIRA NAGAR, MEDICAL COMPLEX
PUDUCHERRY- 605 006

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Advertisement No. ICMR-VCRC/Admn.Recruit/01/2024-25 dated 21.02.2025

ICMR-VCRC, Puducherry invites online applications for filling up of the following posts through Direct Recruitment basis.

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Pay Level	Classification	No. of posts
1	Assistant	Pay Level - 6 (₹35,400 -1,12,400)	Group-B (Ministerial)	2
2	Upper Division Clerk	Pay Level - 4 (₹25,500 - 81,100)	Group-C (Ministerial)	1
3	Lower Division Clerk	Pay Level - 2 (₹19,900 - 63,200)	Group-C (Ministerial)	4
			Total	7

For complete details regarding educational qualification, age, terms & conditions, please visit our website www.vcrc.icmr.org.in & www.icmr.nic.in. The details of online application link and last date of receipt of application will be published shortly. Corrigendum, if any shall be published on the VCRC/ICMR websites only.

Director

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDING ENGINEER, MINOR IRRIGATION DIVISION, BALANGIR
WOMEN'S COLLEGE CHOWK,PALACE LINE, DIST-BALANGIR, PIN-767001
ODISHA INTEGRATED IRRIGATION PROJECT FOR CLIMATE RESILIENT AGRICULTURE(OIIPCRA)
(WORLD BANK PROJECT ID: PI63533)

REQUEST FOR BIDS(RFB) E Procurement Notice
NATIONAL OPEN COMPETITIVE PROCUREMENT FOR SMALL WORKS
RFB No. OIIPCRA-W2-BGR-1/2024-25 Date. 20.02.2025

Name of work	Renovation to Distribution System of Mathanpala MIP in Titilagarh Block of Balangir District under OIIPCRA for the year 2024-25, under M.I.Division, Balangir
No of Works	01 Minor Irrigation Tank
Estimated Cost	Rs.699.19 Lakh Approx (Total estimated cost of 01 tank Rs.699.19 Lakh)
Cost of Bid Document	Free of Cost
Period of Completion	As per DTCN
Availability of bid documents	From 25.02.2025 from 10.00 Hrs to 26.03.2025 up to 15.00 Hrs. in the e-procurement website (https://tendersodisha.gov.in)
Date of Pre-Bid Meeting	04.03.2025 As per Para-7 of DTCN
Last date & time of receipt of bid	Up to 26.03.2025, 15.00 Hrs. through Online.
Period of receipt of bid security	To be paid online along with the bid. Bank Guarantees also acceptable subject to verification.
Date of opening of technical bid	On dt: 26.03.2025 at 15.30 Hrs.
Date of opening of financial bid	To be intimated online after off-line evaluation of Technical Bid
Digital signature certificate of Bidder	The bidder must possess compatible digital signature certificate (DSC) of Class-II or III.
The detail tender call notice can also be seen in the DOWR website	https://dowrodisha.gov.in ; https://octdms.in
Name & address of the OIT:-	Superintending Engineer, M.I. Division, Balangir, Women's college chowk, Palace Line, Dist.: Balangir, Pin 767001, E-Mail:- mid_balangir@yahoo.co.in
Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement market place in	https://tendersodisha.gov.in
	Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division, Balangir

A-1100 :

Superintending Engineer, M.I.Division, Balangir
OIPR-32063/11/0012/2425

icmr | NIE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

ICMR - NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
(Indian Council of Medical Research)
Department of Health Research,
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
R-127, Second Main Road, Ayapakkam, Chennai - 600 077.

RECRUITMENT NOTIFICATION

Advt. No. ICMR-NIE/Admn.Recruit/2025/ Date: 19.02.2025

Applications are invited for the following posts on direct recruitment basis.

S.No.	Name of the Post	Pay Level (as per 7th CPC)	Classification	No of Post(s)
1.	LOWER DIVISION CLERK	Level-2 in Pay Matrix Rs.19,900 - 63,200	Group - C (Ministerial)	7 Posts
2.	UPPER DIVISION CLERK	Level-4 in Pay Matrix Rs.25,500 - 81,100	Group - C (Ministerial)	2 Posts
3.	ASSISTANT	Level-6 in Pay Matrix Rs.35,400 -1,12,400	Group - B (Ministerial)	1 Post

Detailed Recruitment Notification is available on the ICMR/Institute website: **icmr.gov.in** and **www.nie.gov.in.** The details of online application link and last date of receipt of application will be published shortly in the ICMR/Institute website as addendum. If any changes occur in the advertisement, appropriate corrigendum will be published only in ICMR/Institute websites.

Director

INBRIEF

PM to start his 3-day visit to M.P., Bihar and Assam today

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be on a three-day visit to Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, and Assam from Sunday to attend several development initiatives, including the Global Investors Summit in Bhopal and the release of 19th instalment of cash assistance to farmers in Bhagalpur of Bihar. In Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Modi will lay the foundation stone of Bageshwar Dham Medical and Science Research Institute in Chhatarpur on Sunday and inaugurate the investors summit on Monday, a statement said. He will inaugurate Advantage Assam 2.0 Investment and Infrastructure Summit in Guwahati on Tuesday. PTI

Centre promises action on EPS-95 pensioners' demands

The EPS-95 Agitation Committee on Saturday said that Union Labour Minister Mansukh Mandaviya has promised swift action on its demands. Mr. Mandaviya has taken a positive stance on the long-pending demands of 78 lakh EPS-95 pensioners across the country, a statement by the pensioners body said. According to the statement, these demands include an increase in the minimum pension, provision of free medical facilities for pensioners and their spouses, and rectification of errors in applications for higher pension benefits. The Minister assured the delegation of a swift resolution to these issues, it said. PTI

Five killed in Maharashtra as truck unloads sand over shed

Five labourers, among them a minor, were killed when a tipper truck unloaded sand on their temporary shed at a construction site in Jalna on Saturday, the police said. The incident occurred in the early hours of the day at the site of a bridge project at Pasodi-Chandol in Jafrabad tehsil, an official said. The official said the labourers were sleeping in a makeshift shed when a sand-laden tipper arrived, and the truck driver, unaware of their presence, unloaded the contents on the shed, burying them. According to sources, the shed collapsed, and the truck driver fled the scene. The official said a girl and a woman were rescued from the debris. PTI

Madan Rathore re-elected Rajasthan BJP president

Rajya Sabha member Madan Rathore was re-elected unopposed as Bharatiya Janata Party's Rajasthan unit president here on Saturday, seven months after he was first appointed to the post. Along with Mr. Rathore, 25 members of the BJP's National Council were also elected from the State to take part in the party's national presidential election. As no other candidate had filed a nomination for the party's State chief, election in-charge Vijay Rupani formally declared Mr. Rathore's appointment at a function held at the BJP State headquarters. Mr. Rathore asked the party workers to convey any shortcomings to the leadership within the framework of discipline.

SUDOKU

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No.SS6439 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	7	9	4	5	3	2	1	6
4	3	2	1	7	6	8	5	9
6	5	1	8	2	9	7	3	4
1	6	5	3	4	7	9	2	8
7	4	8	2	9	5	1	6	3
2	9	3	6	8	1	4	7	5
5	2	6	9	1	4	3	8	7
3	1	4	7	6	8	5	9	2
9	8	7	5	3	2	6	4	1

I&B Ministry plans new laws to regulate digital content

Parliamentary panel's questions and Supreme Court's observation in Allahbadia case lead to the thinking for a new legal framework in the government; Ministry recently issued advisory to OTTs

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The Information and Broadcasting Ministry is examining the existing statutory provisions and the need for a new legal framework to regulate "harmful" content on digital platforms, indicating the government's move to sharpen its vigilance over them following an outcry over Ranveer Allahbadia's comments on a YouTube programme.

In its reply to a parliamentary panel's communication over the issue, the Ministry said there was a growing concern in society that the constitutional right of "freedom of expression is being misused to showcase obscene and violent content on digital platforms".

It told the Standing Committee on Communications and Information Technology headed by BJP MP Nishikant Dubey that while certain provisions existed under the current laws, there was a growing demand for a stricter and effective legal framework to regulate such harmful content.

It said, "This Ministry has taken note of these developments and is in process of examining current statutory provisions and need for a new legal framework."

The Ministry said the Supreme Court, many High Courts, MPs and statutory bodies such as the National Commission of Women had spoken on the issue after Mr. Allahbadia's comments drew wide condemnation.

The top court flagged the "vacuum" in law when it comes to content on platforms such as YouTube, and said "all kinds of things are going on". The Ministry told the panel that it would submit a detailed note after due deliberations.

The committee asked the Ministry on February 13 about the amendments needed in the laws to clamp down on controversial content in the wake of the emergence of new technology and media platforms.

Members across party lines have joined the outcry over Mr. Allahbadia's comments, prompting the committee to write to the government.

Unlike the conventional print and electronic content, new media services such as over-the-top (OTT) platforms or YouTube have no specific regulatory legal framework.

While there is a view in some quarters that authorities may use new provisions to censor content for extraneous reasons, there is a rising demand for strengthening the legal framework through amendments in the existing laws or by enacting new ones.

While hearing podcaster Mr. Allahbadia's plea for relief following registration of FIRs against him, the top court observed, "We would like to do something. If the Government of India will willingly do it, we will be very happy. Otherwise, we are not going to leave this vacuum."

The Ministry also issued an advisory to OTT platforms and self-regulatory bodies, asking them to strictly adhere to the Code of Ethics prescribed under the IT Rules, 2021 while publishing content.

It asked the self-regulatory bodies of OTT platforms to take appropriate proactive action in case of violation of the Code of Ethics by the platforms.

Chouhan hits out at Air India for broken flight seat

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Shivraj Singh Chouhan

It is "immoral" on Air India's part and a "betrayal" of passengers' trust to sell broken seats, Union Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Saturday, hitting out at the airline after being assigned an "unserviceable" seat on a Bhopal-Delhi flight.

"I am not concerned about my personal discomfort, but charging passengers full fare while providing them with broken and uncomfortable seats is unethical. Is this not a betrayal of passengers' trust? I had assumed that Air India's service had improved under Tata's management, but I was mistaken," the Minister said in a post on the social media platform X.

He was booked on Air India flight AI 436, and assigned seat 8C. In his social media post, he said the seat was "broken" and "sunken" and uncomfortable to occupy.

Report sought

The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has sought a report from Air India.

Civil Aviation Minister K. Rammohan Naidu spoke with Mr. Chouhan on the matter.

The aircraft, a new A321 registered as VT RTB, joined the airline's fleet in April 2023.

Thorough investigation

Air India said in a statement that it would "conduct a thorough investigation to ensure such incidents are not repeated".

The Minister said that the airline must stop exploiting passengers.

"Will Air India's management take steps to ensure that no passenger suffers such discomfort in the future, or will it continue to exploit travellers' urgency to reach their destination," Mr. Chouhan said in his social media post.

On pleas from parents and students, Eklavya schools to go English medium from Class 9

Abhinay Lakshman
NEW DELHI

After multiple representations from students of the Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRSs) and their parents, the National Education Society for Tribal Students (NESTS) has issued a circular introducing English medium of instruction in all EMRS from Class 9, beginning the next academic session (2025-26).

However, the NESTS has said that the existing medium of instruction would continue for those batches going into Classes 10 and 12 in 2025-26. "Schools are advised to organise training sessions, workshops, and provide supplementary learning materials to facilitate the effective implementation of this change."

Ekalavya schools had been set up to provide quality education to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. FILE PHOTO

The EMRSs had been set up by the government to provide quality education to students belonging to the Scheduled Tribes. While the Eklavya schools in States such as Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and West Bengal and some in Chhattisgarh say they have been following English medium, those in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Jharkhand and Uttar Pradesh are using Hindi as the medium of instruction.

Challenging transition

Some of the teachers, principals, and district officials in Rajasthan and Jharkhand told *The Hindu* that transitioning to English would be a challenging task that might take three to four years to take effect. They said there was a "huge aspiration" among the parents to see their children learn a global language like English.

Sources said the NESTS had received multiple representations from parents and students in States such as Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat, requesting English medium of instruction. They also highlighted that not all EMRSs had teachers who could teach in English.

In the circular issued on Tuesday, NESTS said it was introducing English medium of instruction across such schools to bring uniformity and to "enhance the academic standards and professional prospects of all EMRS students". It will help them to better prepare for competitive exams and "broaden their access to universities in India and abroad, where English remains the primary language of instruction". This is also in keeping with the government's stated objective of developing the Eklavya schools along the lines of the Navodaya Vidyalayas.

While principals and teachers in Rajasthan and Jharkhand acknowledge the long-term benefit of the transition, they are nervous about the immediate consequences.

A principal at an EMRS in Rajasthan said, "Hindi medium was being followed so far at the school. We have now started teaching in Hindi and English in Class 6. It will be hard for students entering Classes 9 and 11 this academic session."

Mayadhar Raut

Mayadhar Raut, who led the revival of Odissi, dead

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Renowned Odissi dancer Mayadhar Raut died on Saturday aged 92 at his Delhi home, his son Manoj Raut said.

"He had breakfast this morning, surrounded by his grandchildren and the rest of the family. He wasn't experiencing any illnesses and passed away due to old age," Mr. Raut said.

The Padma Shri awardee, born on July 6, 1933 in Odisha, is considered the Father of Odissi having steered the revival of the dance form with Shastra-based knowledge in 1950s.

His training to become one of the foremost artistes of the dance form began at the age of seven with learning the *Gotipua* dance form, a precursor to the classical Odissi dance.

In 1944, he became the first to present the *Gotipua* dance on stage. He was a founding member of the Kala Vikas Kendra in Cuttack, the first institute in India where Odissi was taught.

Along with his colleagues, he founded Jayantika Association in 1959, to work on the codification and development of Odissi dance and provide it with classical frameworks and build its vocabulary, incorporating basic sciences of 'Abhinaya'. He is survived by his daughter and Odissi dancer Madhumita Raut, and sons Manoj Raut and Manmath Raut.

Modi to be chief guest at Mauritius National Day

Press Trust of India
PORT LOUIS

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will be the guest of honour at the Mauritius National Day celebrations next month, his Mauritian counterpart, Navin Ramgoolam, has announced, calling it a testimony of the close bilateral ties.

Addressing the National Assembly on Friday, Mr. Ramgoolam said it is indeed a singular privilege for our country to host such a distinguished personality despite his very tight schedule. Mauritius commemorates its National Day on March 12 every year. The day marks the anniversary of Mauritius's independence from British rule in 1968. Mr. Ramgoolam mentioned Mr. Modi's recent visits to Paris and the U.S. to highlight his busy schedule.

Ease marriage registration rules to tap wedding market: Centre to States

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

To boost wedding tourism, the Centre has asked the States and Union Territories to facilitate an easy and uniform process of registration of marriage even for couples from outside their respective areas.

A senior Union Tourism Ministry official said it had written to the States and Union Territories on the same.

While the requirements for registration of marriage vary from State to State, most require at least one spouse to be domiciled in their respective States for a minimum period of 30 days. The Indian wedding tourism industry, estimated at around ₹5 lakh crore, is considered a sunshine sector.

According to estimates, one crore weddings take place in India every year.

Destination is key: The Indian wedding tourism industry has been estimated at ₹5 lakh crore and is considered a sunshine sector. PTI

At a recent event, Union Tourism Minister Gajendra Singh Shekhwat said that with 54% of the population under 30 years of age, a large part of household income in India is spent on weddings.

"If we consider those aged 25 and under, about 68 crore people in India will be getting married in the next few years, creating huge potential for the wedding industry," he said.

The Tourism Ministry had in 2023 launched an ambitious campaign aimed at showcasing India as a premier wedding destination on the global stage. The campaign began with profiling about 25 key destinations across the country, exploring how India fits into their wedding aspirations in more ways than one. A key highlight of the campaign lies in its collaborative approach, developed in close consultation with industry experts, associations, and seasoned wedding planners. Their feedback has shaped a comprehensive narrative that unravels India's allure as a wedding tourism destination, addressing diverse aspirations and showcasing the myriad facets of this incredible nation, an official statement said.

However, in a recent report submitted in Parliament, the Parliamentary Standing Committee of Transport, Tourism and Culture has said that India's huge potential for wedding tourism has not been fully exploited. The committee observed that "destination weddings" can offer several benefits to the local economy and ecosystem.

CII chief: wages rising, but 'servicification' of manufacturing makes comparisons difficult

Sanjiv Puri highlights the need for accelerating job creation and expanding the skilled workforce; changing manufacturing business models with increasing reliance on specialised services are reshaping employment dynamics, making traditional comparisons of wage trends complex, he says

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

Even as the Economic Survey 2024-25 called out corporate India for wage growth flagging while profits soared in recent years, the head of India's apex industry chamber has noted that businesses are regularly hiking salaries but recent wage trends may not be strictly comparable with the past due to an increasing 'servicification' of manufacturing.

"Wage revisions have been happening regularly based on relevant industry surveys and inflation data, and it is also imperative that these revisions happen, because otherwise industry will not be able to retain talent," Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) president Sanjiv Puri told *The Hindu*.

Specialised services

On the concerns about wage growth, the CII chief said a lot of the value chains are now using more specialised services than before.

"For instance, for utilities used by a company... traditionally, you did not have agencies that managed utilities on a turnkey basis, so you did it yourself, whereas managing a utility is not the core competency of a manufacturing setup, their core competency is to do their manufacturing. Today, you have professional agencies that come and manage your utilities. Sometimes, even OEMs [Original Equipment Manufacturers] come and manage utilities," Mr. Puri noted.

"The service component, even in manufacturing, is going up. So that may not get captured in one's comparisons, making them difficult," the CII president underlined.

Mr. Puri, who is also the chairman and managing director of conglomerate ITC Limited, recalled that when he had joined the firm, even car drivers were employees of the company. "Now there are usually professional agencies that provide those services," he remarked.

At a broader level, Mr. Puri noted the key challenge for India is to accelerate job creation as well as expand the pool of skilled employable resources. Ahead of the Survey, in December 2024, Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) V. Anantha Nageswaran had nudged industry to play its part in propping up consumption to drive domestic growth in an increasingly uncertain world economy. While corporate profitability had hit a 15-year high in 2023-24, much of the gains were diverted to reduce their leverage levels, the CEA had noted, mooting a greater balance between profitability and workers' incomes.

"Without this parity, there will not be adequate demand in the economy for corporate products to be purchased," Mr. Nageswaran had said, pointing to wage growth for contract workers not keeping pace with inflation.

Shifting metrics

Economic Survey 2024-25 flagged concerns over slowing wage growth despite record corporate profits

> The service component, even in manufacturing, is going up. So that may not get captured in one's comparisons, making them difficult
>
> **SANJIV PURI,** CII President

- Corporate profits grew **22.3%** in FY24, while employment expansion lagged at just **1.5%**
- 4,000 listed firms saw revenue rise by **6%**, but employee expense growth slowed to **13%** from **17%** the previous year

Balrampur Chini Mills to set up PLA biopolymer unit in Uttar Pradesh

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Balrampur Chini Mills Limited (BCML) has announced the setting up of a Polylactic Acid (PLA) biopolymer manufacturing unit at Kumbhi, Uttar Pradesh, at an investment of ₹2,850 crore. The project will be funded through 40% equity and 60% debt.

The company said this would be India's first integrated biopolymer plant

Vivek Saraogi

that would help in replacing single-use plastic. The ground-breaking ceremony was conducted by Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath. The unit, which is to come up adjacent to the company's existing sugar factory in Kumbhi, will be operational in October 2026 and will source the raw material from the sugar mill.

With an annual production capacity of 80,000 tonnes per annum, the plant will produce 100% industrially compostable and bio-based PLA, which finds a wide range of applications in the manufacturing of bio degradable plastic replacement products such as straws, disposable cutlery, food trays, bottles, curd cups, and carry bags by small scale manufacturing units.

"The establishment of India's first PLA biopolymer manufacturing facility represents a monumental leap in our nation's industrial sustainability journey," said CMD Vivek Saraogi.

'India's machinery import from Germany grew 2.2 % in 2024'

M.Soundariya Preetha
COIMBATORE

India's import of machinery and equipment from Germany in 2024 increased 2.6% to €4,298 million, according to VDMA, an organisation for the machinery and equipment manufacturing industry in Germany and Europe.

The Indian market constitutes 2.2% of Germany's total export of machinery and equipment.

However, export of machinery from India to Germany fell 4.9% in 2024 compared with the previous year. Germany's export of machinery and equipment declined 2.1% and 4.5% to the U.S and China respectively.

Nevertheless, exports to Mexico rose by 5.4% in 2024, while exports to India increased by 2.6%.

Trademarking a surname: Lodha case raises debate

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The ongoing legal spat between the Lodha brothers over using "Lodha" brand has once again brought the question to the limelight - can a family surname be monopolised as a trademark and if so, who has the rightful claim?

The Lodha vs. Lodha Intellectual Property Right (IPR) dispute case has been referred to a court-appointed mediation process. The warring brothers may not budge easily given that owning a brand name can mean owning the market itself. While this may seem like a classic family dispute, Indian courts have ruled on similar issues in the past.

Abhinandhan Lodha and Abhishek Lodha. THE HINDU

Surname in brand name

One of the earliest rulings was in the Bajaj Electricals Ltd. vs Metals and Allied Products case. Though the owners of both firms had the same surname, the court had ruled in favour of Bajaj Electricals, stating that the name was strongly associated with their business. The court held that its unauthorised use could mislead consumers. Thus, setting a precedent that a surname can be protected if it has strong market recognition.

A similar case was upheld in the Kirloskar Diesel Recon Pvt. Ltd. vs. Kirloskar Proprietary Ltd. case. The court had ruled that even family members couldn't use the Kirloskar name if it created confusion in the market.

In Lodha brothers' case too, if one can prove that the Lodha brand has gained distinctiveness solely under his leadership, the court may restrict the other from using it for real estate ventures.

"Indian courts have upheld that a surname, when strongly associated with a business, deserves trademark protection. If [Abhishek Lodha's] Macrotech proves that 'Lodha' in real estate is tied to its brand through market recognition and goodwill, exclusivity should follow," said Prathamesh Kamat, Counsel, Bombay High Court. "Allowing others to use it risks consumer confusion and brand dilution–an outcome courts have consistently prevented," he added.

Historical claim

In the Montari Overseas vs Montari Industries case, the court had granted an injunction preventing Montari Overseas from using the 'Montari' name, reinforcing that similar business names could create confusion. The court noted that Montari Industries was established first and Montari Overseas couldn't provide a credible explanation for the adoption of the name. In the Lodha dispute, the brother with a stronger historical claim to the brand may be granted exclusive rights.

"When a family name is used as a recognised brand, especially in a publicly listed company like Macrotech, protecting its integrity and exclusivity is not just about trademarks–it's also about safeguarding investor trust and minority shareholder interests," said Nitin Potdar, former Corporate and M&A Partner, JSA.

"Allowing any infringement or use of the 'Lodha' name in real estate could create confusion, impacting brand value along with its associated goodwill and shareholder confidence, which courts have consistently sought to prevent," he added.

Market dominance

Yet another case is the Mahindra and Mahindra Ltd. vs Mahendra and Mahendra Paper Mills. The court had ruled that 'Mahindra and Mahindra' had acquired a secondary meaning beyond its surname origins. "Mahendra & Mahendra" clearly infringes the trade name "Mahindra and Mahindra" that is doing business for more than five decades, the Supreme Court noted in an appeal.

The decision reinforced the principle that even if a surname is similar, its strong association with a particular business grants it legal protection.

Whether the court will allow both Lodha brothers to continue using the brand or grant exclusivity to one of them remains to be seen.

Granules eyes foray into peptide, CDMO with ₹192 cr. acquisition of Swiss firm

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Generic drugmaker Granules India is foraying into the peptide segment and contract development and manufacturing organisation (CDMO) business with a ₹192.5 crore (CHF 20 million) acquisition of Swiss firm Senn Chemicals AG.

Founded in 1963 and headquartered in Dielsdorf, Switzerland, Senn is focused on custom peptide manufacturing and supports global clients across pharmaceuticals, cosmetics and theragnostic industries, from early development to commercial production.

The acquisition brings Senn's expertise in Liquid-Phase Peptide Synthesis (LPPS) and Solid-Phase Peptide Synthesis (SPPS), along with a strong CDMO business and established customer relationship. It will enable Granules acquiring capabilities into high-growth peptide-based therapeutics and aligns with its vision to enter the rapidly expanding peptide-based anti-diabetic and anti-obesity market, including Glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) receptor agonists and other next-generation therapeutics.

Granules and Senn are developing two GLP-1 based active pharmaceutical ingredients, and both the projects are progressing well, and more peptide-based APIs are planned to be added in the portfolio, to be developed using Senn's R&D capabilities, the Hyderabad-based firm said.

INBRIEF

'Importers of medical gloves violating safety norms'

The Indian Rubber Gloves Manufacturers Association (IRGMA) has filed a complaint with the Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) alleging violations by some major importers of medical gloves. The violations listed by IRGMA include importing expired and otherwise mislabelled gloves, repackaging of gloves in unhygienic conditions, conferring inaccurate certification, and putting safety associated with critical medical procedures in jeopardy.

AMFI unveils initiatives to encourage investments

Industry body AMFI has introduced three initiatives – SIP for smaller investments, Tarun Yojana to encourage young investors, and MITRA to help track and recover forgotten investments. These initiatives align with markets regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) and the Association of Mutual Funds in India's ongoing efforts to democratise mutual fund investments, ensuring wider participation across diverse segments of society.

'Work on solutions, to make power sector a growth engine'

Union Power Minister Manohar Lal on Saturday urged industry stakeholders to work on manufacturing innovative solutions to strengthen India's journey toward the ambitious target of 500 GW of renewable energy by 2030. Mr. Lal pointed to developing higher-efficiency transmission, distribution equipment, GIS sub stations to modernise the grid. He was speaking at Elecrama 2025, an event organised by industry body IEEMA in Greater Noida.

How glacier ice algae accelerate Greenland ice sheet melting

The Hindu Bureau

A new study reveals that dark-pigmented microalgae, which contribute to the melting of the Greenland ice sheet, are highly efficient at nutrient uptake and growth, allowing them to rapidly colonise expanding areas of exposed ice. The findings suggest that these algae can persist and spread without the need for additional nutrient inputs, intensifying ice sheet darkening and accelerating melt rates. The results were published in the journal *Nature Communications*.

They utilised cutting-edge single-cell imaging techniques to examine the carbon, nitrogen, and phosphorus content of glacier ice algae. By measuring their nutrient assimilation rates, the study found that these algae store phosphorus internally and maintain exceptionally high carbon-to-nutrient ratios, indicating a survival strategy finely tuned to nutrient-poor glacier environments.

'Crucial insights'

"Our study provides crucial insights into how glacier ice algae sustain themselves in such extreme conditions," Dr James Bradley from the Queen Mary University of London and a co-author of the paper said in a release. "They don't require large amounts of external nutrients to grow, which means that as the ice sheet continues to melt and expose more bare ice, these algae are well-positioned to expand their coverage. This is particularly concerning because their dark pigmentation lowers the ice's reflectivity, increasing heat absorption and accelerating melting and therefore sea-level rise."

The melting of the Greenland Ice Sheet is the single largest contributor of freshwater to global sea-level rise. Previous research has shown that algal blooms on the ice sheet's western margin can enhance melt rates by 10 to 13%. However, the factors controlling algal growth have remained unclear. This new study highlights how these resilient microorganisms can optimise their nutrient intake, ensuring their survival and expansion despite the nutrient-poor conditions of the ice sheet.

By revealing the self-sufficiency of these algae, the study underscores the urgent need to incorporate biological processes into climate models predicting ice sheet melt.

Why are States asked to use untested AI tool for TB screening?

The Central TB Division informed the States in end-January this year to "consider utilising" the DeepCXR tool only when the States reached out to CTD seeking AI solutions to analyse chest X-ray images

R. Prasad

Even as time is running out to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi's goal of "eliminating" TB by 2025, the Health Ministry appears to be moving at glacial speed and is largely disinterested. A report submitted by the Health Technology Assessment of India (HTAIn) committee in February 2024 on two indigenously developed solutions to screen people with presumptive and subclinical TB using AI-assisted chest X-ray interpretation was posted on the HTAIn website only on December 6, 2024. The two indigenously developed solutions are qXR from the Bengaluru-based Qure.ai and Genki from Pune's DeepTek.

HTA assessment of a new technology or tool for cost-effectiveness and efficacy in terms of sensitivity and specificity is not mandatory. However, the Central TB Division (CTD) waits for the HTA report and approval by the Medical Technology Assessment Board (MTAB) chaired by Niti Aayog and involves stakeholders including itself before programmatic implementation of any new tool, technology or treatment regimen using novel drugs for TB. For instance, TrueNat for TB diagnosis was validated by ICMR's National Institute of Research in Tuberculosis (NIRT), Chennai before it was assessed by the HTA before it was included in the TB programme. Similarly, the BPaLM/BPaL regimen for MDR-TB treatment was tested in a phase 3/4 trial by NIRT and then assessed by HTA before being included in the TB programme by the Central TB Division.

Surprisingly, despite the assessment and approval of the two AI tools by the HTA and MTAB, respectively, the Central TB Division has not included them for programmatic implementation. However, even in the absence of an HTA assessment, the CTD has "recommended for programmatic introduction" a similar AI tool – DeepCXR – developed by the Institute for Plasma Research, Gandhinagar. An ICMR expert committee had approved the AI tool for "use under the national TB programme".

Worse, CTD failed to officially communicate to the States that it was recommending the use of the DeepCXR tool in the TB programme. Instead, CTD informed the States in end-January this year to "consider utilising" the DeepCXR tool only when the States reached out to CTD seeking AI solutions to analyse chest X-ray images. And the 100-day TB elimination campaign began on December 7, 2024. As per CTD, the DeepCXR technology is available for free for use in the national TB programme.

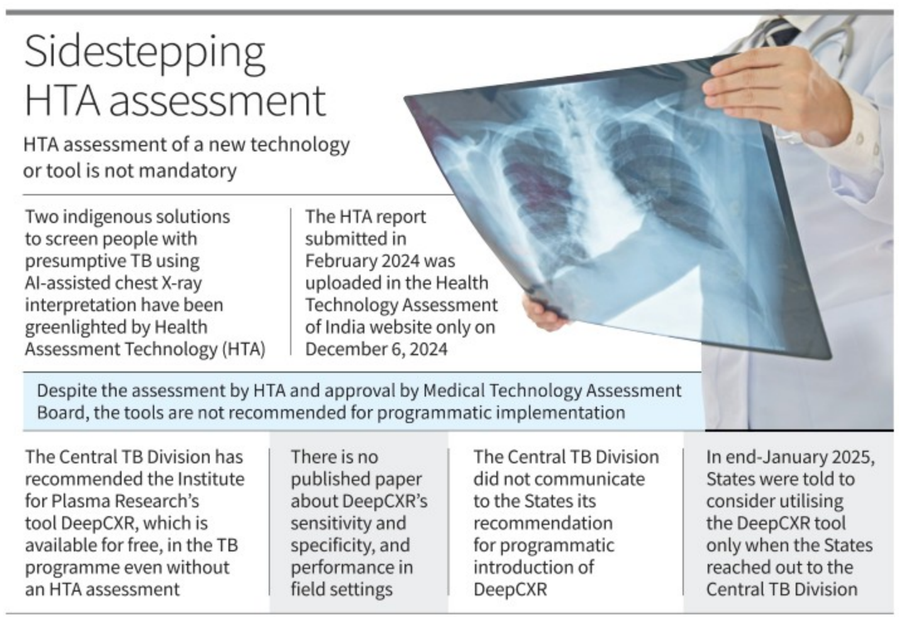
As per a January-February 2020 review paper in the journal *Neurology India*, the Institute for Plasma Research had trained the AI tool using 6,000-30,000 chest X-ray images with an "overall accuracy of 93% on a test dataset". Documents show that the AI tool has been trained using 54,000 X-rays and validated using 14,000 X-rays from "multiple datasets from more than 18 sites, with an average accuracy of over 96%". There is no information on whether the DeepCXR tool is routinely used at any site for TB screening. Except for claims made in some documents and presentations, there is not a single published paper about the tool's sensitivity and specificity and performance in field settings.

In contrast, there are a number of published studies on large patient populations where the performance of qXR and Genki has been evaluated. In fact, the qXR tool from Qure.ai with over 90% sensitivity and more than 70% specificity in people older than 15 years was one of the three AI algorithms that the WHO had referenced when updating the TB screening guidelines in March 2021. The qXR technology has been implemented in over 3,100 sites across 90 countries, and in about 490 sites in 25 States in India, and Genki has been implemented in over 80 sites across 15 States.

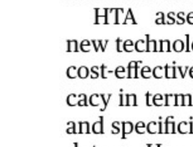
As per the HTA assessment, both qXR and Genki have been found to be cost-effective. The cost per case interpreted/screened is ₹30 in the case of qXR and ₹22 for Genki. The pooled sensitivity and specificity of the two interventions are 90% and 68%, respectively, which meets WHO's non-inferior accuracy for TB screening. Both solutions were also found to be cost-effective. "Based on threshold analysis, the qXR technology will be cost-saving up to ₹400 per screening and Genki will be cost-effective up to ₹35 per screening," says Dr. Somen Saha, Professor at the Indian Institute of Public Health (IIPH), Gandhinagar and the Principal Investigator of the HTA assessment committee for the two AI tools.

Useful interpretation

The importance of using chest X-rays for screening presumptive and subclinical TB cases cannot be overemphasised. 42.6% and 39% TB cases during the National TB Prevalence Survey 2019-2021 and TB prevalence survey in Tamil Nadu (2021-2022), respectively, were detected only because a chest X-ray was used for screening. AI-assisted X-ray interpretation takes less than a minute, has high accuracy, reduces the cost of TB detection, and can be used in resource-limited settings.



Powering a sustainable future



SPEAKING OF SCIENCE

D. Balasubramanian

Generating electricity by burning coal leads to considerable air pollution, which affects human and animal health. Recently, Dr Kirat Singh and colleagues from Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, the U.S. have shown that in India nitrogen dioxide and ozone emissions from coal-fired power plants diminish yields of staple crops like wheat and rice. Using quantitative methods, they estimate that annual losses are in excess of 10% in parts of India. This works out to a loss of about six years' worth of growth in average yield in recent years. The productivity of our crops has risen due to improved varieties, better irrigation and mechanisation, and this reduction in yield is a point of concern.

Wheat is largely grown in the central and northern states, while rice is mainly produced in southern and eastern states. The amount of coal left in these areas is estimated by the Ministry of Coal to last for the next 120 years. Coal-fired power generation has been used for India's electricity supply since its introduction in 1920 at Hussain Sagar, Hyderabad, under the Nizam's rule, using British equipment. This method is still being used in India, with some improvement over the years. We thus need to think of other methods to generate electricity.

Cleaner methods

One method is from the 'ground to the wind'. This involves the use of wind power by placing windmills to generate electricity. Nine windy States of India generate as much as 50 Gigawatts (GW) of electricity. India is the fourth largest wind power maker in the world. Several private companies have installed windmills that produce electricity for urban and rural Indians.

On top: The top five dams in India together generate 50 GW of hydroelectricity.

The second method is 'Sun to the land', which uses energy from sunlight. This involves setting up solar panels on houses and buildings or on large-scale solar farms. These panels absorb sunlight and convert light into electricity. These solar roofs are already very popular, and the Central and State governments offer subsidies to those who install solar panels.

The third method is 'Block a river and generate power'. This involves stopping a part of a river to make electricity, besides offering water for agriculture in areas where the river flows. When a river's water is blocked by a dam and then released, the resultant energy is used to generate electric power. The top five dams across India together generate as much as 50 GWs (Gigawatts) of hydroelectric energy.

The fourth one is when a river flows into the sea. A review paper published in *Nano Research Energy* discusses how electrical energy can be produced when river waters flow into sea water, which is saltier. This osmotic pressure difference has been used by Dr Javad Safaei at the Centre for Clean Engineering Technology, University of Sydney, Australia. Likewise, engineers at Penn State, U.S. have generated electricity osmotic pressure differences. India has a vast coastline of 7,500 km, where rivers from the west, south and east drain into the sea, and this technology can effectively generate electricity. Here is an opportunity for Indian scientists and technologists to rise to the challenge.

And the fifth method is to use nuclear reactors for peaceful purposes and generate electricity. Nuclear power plants use nuclear fission to heat water, create steam, and spin turbines to generate electricity.

The set of eight nuclear power plants in India together generate 3.5 GW of electricity.

Given all these, let us give up coal to generate electricity, which pollutes the country.

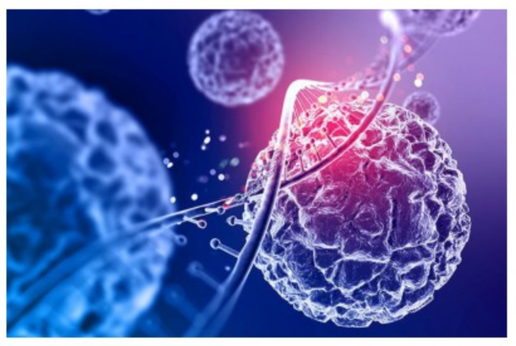
SNAPSHOTS

Exoplanet's atmosphere show a unique climate

Astronomers have for the first time peered through the atmosphere of a planet beyond the Solar System and some 900 light-years away in the constellation Puppis, mapping its 3D structure. By combining all four telescope units of the European Southern Observatory's Very Large Telescope, they found powerful winds due to extreme temperature contrasts between the star-facing and far side carrying chemical elements like iron and titanium, creating weather patterns across the planet's atmosphere.

7,40,000 global deaths from suicide occur annually

About 7,40,000 suicides are reported annually, which is one death on average every 43 seconds, a comprehensive analysis reveals. Males die from suicide at twice the rate of females. Over the last three decades, the global age-standardised mortality rate for suicide declined by nearly 40%, from about 15 deaths per 1,00,000 to nine deaths per 1,00,000, indicating that intervention and prevention are working. For females, the rate declined by more than 50%, while it declined by almost 34% for males.



CAR-T immune treatment keeps cancer in remission

A woman who received CAR-T-cell therapy to treat a nerve-cell cancer, a rare childhood cancer, when she was four years old is still cancer-free 19 years later, the longest reported cancer remission following the treatment. She received the therapy – which uses engineered immune cells called CAR-T cells – in 2006. Since then, CAR-T-cell therapies have proved highly effective in some blood cancers, but researchers have struggled to repeat that success against solid tumours.

Question Corner

Dream recall

What makes us remember our dreams?

A new study has explored the factors that influence 'dream recall' – the ability to remember dreams upon awakening – and uncovers which individual traits and sleep patterns shape this phenomenon. The study revealed that people with a positive attitude toward dreams and a tendency for mind-wandering were more likely to recall their dreams. Individuals who experienced longer periods of light sleep had a greater likelihood of waking with a memory of their dreams. Younger participants showed higher rates of dream recall, while older individuals often experienced 'white dreams' (a sensation of having dreamt without recalling any details). This suggests age-related changes in memory processes during sleep. Moreover, seasonal variations emerged, with participants reporting lower dream recall during winter compared to spring, hinting at the potential influence of environmental or circadian factors. Thus dream recall is a reflection of how personal attitudes, cognitive traits, and sleep dynamics interact.

Readers may send their questions / answers to questioncorner@thehindu.co.in

How was 'Vikatan' made inaccessible?

What are the rules? How do website blocking orders work in India? What can a website owner do?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

The website of the Tamil magazine, *Vikatan*, was rendered inaccessible for several readers on February 15, after the BJP's Tamil Nadu president K. Annamalai sent a letter to L. Murugan, the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting, complaining about a cartoon featuring Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. President Donald Trump. The magazine, as well as State leaders like Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, have condemned the move as an attack on freedom of expression.

Why was there a complaint about a cartoon?

Ananda Vikatan has been a mainstay in the Tamil magazine space, and in its most recent avatar has been a constant source of political and entertainment reporting. The magazine also publishes an online e-magazine for paying subscribers called *Vikatan Plus*. The February 10 edition of this digital magazine had a cover cartoon featuring Prime Minister Modi shackled in chains, seated next to President Trump. The shackling was a reference to the plight of the migrants being deported from the U.S. to India aboard military planes in chains.

Website blockings are governed by Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The law broadly empowers the government to block a website in the 'interest of sovereignty and integrity of India'

This depiction of the Prime Minister set off a controversy on social media, which was further taken up by Mr. Annamalai, who wrote to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (MIB). He accused the magazine of "operating as a mouthpiece of the DMK".

How was it rendered unavailable?

The Union government did not issue any statement confirming or denying that the website was made inaccessible. *The Hindu* was able to confirm with four people aware of the order that led to *Vikatan*'s inaccessibility, that it was issued by the MIB. The I&B disseminated the instructions through the Department of Telecommunications to internet providers and telecom operators, after which the website was not accessible in majority of their networks.

Website blockings are governed by Section 69A of the Information Technology Act, 2000. The law's language broadly empowers the government to block a website in the "interest of sovereignty and integrity of India, defence of India, security of the State, friendly relations with foreign States or public order or for preventing incitement". The blocking orders are confidential, and a copy has not been provided to *Vikatan* or to the public.

The Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, 2009 details the operation of these Rules, empowering Ministries and State government departments to refer a blocking request through a nodal officer to a designated officer under the IT Ministry, which then constitutes a committee that takes a decision. If a blocking is directed, the Department of Telecommunications is looped in to send the order to broadband and telecom players. This is different from the framework for removing content within a given website or streaming service. That is governed by the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, which are regulations under the IT Act empowering the I&B Ministry and the IT Ministry to issue emergency orders blocking content on social media platforms, streaming services, online news websites, and so on. Since the introduction of secure HTTPS websites, blocking a specific piece of content within a website is not possible without the cooperation of the website's publisher, as internet networks can only see the name of the domain, and not what a user is viewing on a given website.

What can 'Vikatan' do?

Under the 2009 blocking rules, a notice should be sent to the website which is liable to be blocked, so that they may make a representation. This can be considered by a review committee. The publishers of VLC Media Player were able to obtain an unblocking of their website in 2022, after engaging in discussions with the IT Ministry. No such prior notice was sent to *Vikatan*. On February 16, the day after the order was issued, the magazine received a notice for the cartoon under the 2021 IT Rules governing content blocking within websites, which did not acknowledge the website's overall inaccessibility. After getting a notice, a website owner can typically make their case to the committee formed under the 2009 Rules. If the committee does not accept the defence, this can be appealed in a High Court. In *Vikatan*'s case, the notice from the I&B Ministry called for a hearing on February 20. The magazine presented its case, and has vowed to legally challenge the order if the outcome of the hearing "does not align with press freedom principles."

What is India's dilemma over fighter jets?

Does India have to opt for the F-35 offered by U.S. President Donald Trump? What about defence deals with Russia? Why were plans to acquire the SU-57 dropped? What is the status of an indigenous fighter jet? Is India too dependent on foreign capabilities and technology?

Dinakar Peri

The story so far:

The two foremost Fifth Generation Fighter Aircraft (FGFA) of Russia and the U.S., the SU-57 and F-35, got a lot of attention at Aero India, which was held from February 10-14 in Bengaluru, with the former undoubtedly being the showstopper with its manoeuvres. Just as that wound up, U.S. President Donald Trump, addressing a press meet with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, said the U.S. is also paving the way to "ultimately" provide India with F-35 stealth fighters.

What's the F-35?

The F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is a single seat, single-engine strike fighter jet with three variants, F-35A, which has a conventional take-off and landing for the Air Force, F-35B short take-off/vertical landing for the Marine Corps and an F-35C aircraft carrier variant for the Navy and the Marine Corps. In addition to the U.S., the programme has seven international partners, and 10 foreign military sales customers, and the jets are expected to be in service well into the 2080s. As of January 30, 2025, 1,110 F-35s were delivered, according to the lead contractor Lockheed Martin, with 20 participants in the programme.

Noting that it wasn't a firm offer yet and what Mr. Trump meant was that they will look at a roadmap for making the F-35 available, Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh said recently that India "will look at that offer once it becomes a firm offer." Pointing out that there is a protocol to be followed, he said that first requirements have to be raised by the services, and only then

The costs are substantial and India has never operated a U.S. fighter jet

are options on offer studied. "Creating an option of this type is important for us and we will certainly look at it with an open mind," he said.

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO), which is mandated by the U.S. Congress to review the programme, said in a May 2024 report that the Department of Defence estimates that these development efforts – as well as the costs to maintain and operate the 2,470 planned aircraft through 2088 – will exceed $2 trillion. Based on various estimates, the F-35 costs upwards of $100 million per aircraft with armaments and associated costs. India has never operated a U.S. fighter, and an advanced fighter like the F-35 will need new facilities for training and maintenance.

New wings: A U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightening II fighter jet on display at Aero India 2025 in Bengaluru. DINAKAR PERI

What is the status of the Russian fighter jet?

It is pertinent to note that in 2010, India and Russia signed a preliminary design agreement to jointly produce the FGFA, now the SU-57, for use by both countries after which each had invested $295 million for preliminary design which was completed in 2013. But protracted negotiations followed over the high cost and limited technology transfer. One of the limiting factors was that it was a single seater and the creation of a twin-seat variant, the IAF's preference, would mean a steep rise in costs. India eventually pulled out of the FGFA project and decided to go with its indigenous FGFA, the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA).

What is the IAF's squadron strength?

The IAF has a sanctioned strength of 42.5 fighter squadrons, but, is languishing today at 31 squadrons with a significant proportion of ageing platforms. "Somewhere India got left behind and is stuck in the middle. There is a big gap and major countries have moved forward," noted a senior official. China, Russia and the U.S. have already fielded fifth generation fighter jets, with China recently stealing a march over everyone else as it flew two advanced fifth generation fighters, dubbed by some as a sixth-generation jet, in addition to the two jets already developed and inducted. Reports suggest that Pakistan is looking to acquire 40 J-35 fifth generation jets from China.

In December, the government constituted a high-level committee led by the Defence Secretary to chalk out a roadmap for the IAF and address operational gaps. The report which was scheduled to be submitted by end-January, is still in the works, officials confirmed.

What is in the pipeline?

India has an ambitious plan to acquire over 500 fighter jets, a bulk of them variants of the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) and the AMCA, that is at least a decade away from induction.

There has been a delay in the deliveries of 83 LCA-Mk1A already contracted, with 97 more to be ordered. The delay in deliveries has been partly due to engine delays from General Electric (GE), and Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) has now assured that 12 jets will be delivered to the IAF this year; the order for 83 jets will be completed in three-and-a-half years. Officials said that the more capable LCA-Mk2 is expected to make first flight in early 2026. The AMCA prototype is expected to roll out by end-2026 or early-2027, certified by 2032 and ready for induction by 2034. In addition, there is the proposal for 114 Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) to be imported and licence-manufactured locally but has seen no progress for many years, with the Request For Information (RFI) issued in April 2019. However, given the gap in numbers, the MRFA as envisaged may now be too expensive and too late to address the crisis. Last October, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal A. P. Singh said the MRFA was "needed as on yesterday."

While several experts and observers pitched for two F-35 squadrons as a stopgap, given the complex process and timelines, it would be a decade before the jets arrive. The 36 Rafale deal contracted at €7.87 billion from France in 2016 is a case in point. In addition, India had paid over €1 billion in one-time research and development costs for India-specific enhancements on the Rafales. Speeding up the domestic programmes is of critical importance as any new addition to the IAF's already diverse fleet will create a maintenance nightmare and also take away focus and resources from indigenous efforts.

When did diversification begin?

Russian military hardware has constituted a bulk of the Indian military inventory, including the IAF, for decades and diversification began in the early 2000s. However, diversification shouldn't mean moving from one dependency to another. As per the current plan, by early 2040, the IAF will have 220 LCA-Mk1 variants, at least 120 LCA-Mk2s and the initial batch of AMCAs, all powered by the GE F-404 and F-414 jet engines, a significant proportion of the fighter fleet.

The licence manufacture of the F-414 engine or the new 110KN engine, likely to be co-developed and co-produced with France for the AMCA-Mk2, will mean that India would be dependent on others for the most critical systems. The Indian aero engine space for both fixed wing and helicopters will be powered by the U.S. and France for the rest of the century, as French co-developed engines power India's indigenous helicopters.

So adding new fighters, that too of the highest technological threshold of the U.S., would surely come with a lot of riders, some intrusive and some that could stymie operational flexibility and impact plans on indigenous manufacturing.

Why is three-language policy controversial?

Why has the Centre withheld funds to Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha programme? When did the State adopt a two-language policy? What is its stand on mandatory imposition of Hindi? What is the central government's view? How can the issue be resolved?

D. Suresh Kumar

The story so far:

The Union Government has withheld ₹2,152 crore in funds due to Tamil Nadu under the Samagra Shiksha scheme for refusing to join the Prime Minister Schools for Rising India (PMSHRI) initiative. While T.N. is eager to participate in the PM SHRI scheme, it staunchly opposes the accompanying mandate to implement the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020. One of the State's core objections to the NEP is its insistence on adopting a three-language formula in schools. Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan has rejected any concessions, insisting that T.N. must align "with the Constitution". Chief Minister M.K. Stalin, questioning which provision of the Constitution justifies such mandates, has declared that the State will not submit to "blackmail" or abandon its historically adopted two-language policy.

What does the NEP 2020 state?

The NEP 2020 has retained the three-language formula, a concept first introduced in the NEP of 1968. The key difference, however, is that back then the NEP advocated for Hindi to be a compulsory language across the nation.

Tamil Nadu, with its long-standing two-language policy, has consistently outperformed many other States in key education metrics

Not backing down: Deputy Chief Minister Udhayanidhi Stalin and his allies protest against NEP's three-language policy in Chennai on February 18. R. RAGU

Hindi-speaking States were required to teach Hindi, English, and a modern Indian language – preferably a south Indian language – while non-Hindi speaking States were expected to teach the local regional language, Hindi, and English. In contrast, NEP 2020 offers greater flexibility, technically not imposing any specific language on any State. It states that "the three languages learned by children will be the choices of States, regions, and, of course, the students themselves, so long as at least two of the three languages are native to India." This means, in addition to the State's language, children would be required to learn at least one other Indian language – not necessarily Hindi. The policy also emphasises bilingual teaching, particularly in the home language/mother tongue and English. Conspicuously, it places significant emphasis on Sanskrit as an optional choice within the three-language formula.

Why is there opposition to this policy in T.N.?

Tamil Nadu has long resisted the 'imposition of Hindi'. In 1937, when the C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) government in Madras proposed making Hindi a compulsory subject in secondary schools, the Justice Party fiercely opposed it. Two young men, Thalamuthu and Natarajan, who participated in the agitation, died and became icons in the anti-Hindi imposition movement. Rajaji eventually resigned, and the British government withdrew the order. In 1965, as the deadline for adopting Hindi as the sole official language across India approached, the State witnessed violent protests that led to the deaths of at least 70 people in police shootings or self-immolations. The agitation resurfaced when Parliament adopted the Official Languages (Amendment) Act, 1967, and the Official Language Resolution, 1968, which mandated the teaching of Hindi as part of the three-language formula. In January 1968, the Madras Assembly, led by the C.N. Annadurai-led first Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) government, adopted a resolution calling for the scrapping of the three-language formula and the elimination of Hindi from the curriculum in T.N. schools. Since then, the State has steadfastly followed its two-language policy teaching Tamil and English. Major political parties, including the ruling DMK and the principal opposition All-India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), have consistently opposed any efforts to alter this policy. In 2019, backlash led the Kasturirangan Committee to remove the mandatory Hindi learning clause from the draft NEP.

Why is the three-language policy seen as an attempt to impose Hindi?

Political parties and activists in T.N. view the three-language policy as a "smokescreen" and a "backdoor" attempt to impose Hindi. They argue that, in practice, the implementation of a three-language scheme would inevitably lead to the teaching of Hindi, given the limited resources for providing additional language teachers and learning materials. Moreover, the Union Government and prominent BJP leaders have periodically advocated for the promotion of Hindi. In 2019, the Union Budget allocated ₹50 crore to support the appointment of Hindi teachers in non-Hindi speaking States. Critics contend the Centre's actions do not match its rhetoric on promoting regional languages, as evidenced by the lack of efforts to hire adequate regional language teachers in Kendriya Vidyalayas or to ensure south Indian languages are taught in schools above the Vindhyas.

Mr. Pradhan has defended the withholding of funds to T.N., making it clear that adherence to the three-language policy is non-negotiable. He urged Mr. Stalin to "rise above political differences" and criticised the State for viewing the NEP 2020 with a "myopic vision". In response, Mr. Stalin has accused Mr. Pradhan of attempting to "impose Hindi" under the guise of the NEP's policy. Mr. Stalin has vowed that, as long as the DMK and he are around, Tamil and T.N.'s interests will not be compromised.

What is the way forward?

The only viable solution lies in constructive dialogue and a practical compromise between the Centre and the State on an issue like education, which was transferred from the State to the concurrent list during the Emergency. Notably, T.N., with its long-standing two-language policy, has consistently outperformed many other States in key metrics such as Gross Enrolment Ratio and reduced school dropout rates. Disagreements over teaching a third language should not be allowed to derail funding for Samagra Shiksha, a comprehensive programme for education.

PROFILES

From the wings to the centre

Rekha Gupta

The 50-year-old first-time MLA, who began her political activism with the ABVP in the early 1990s, has been chosen by the BJP to lead the government following the party's return to power in Delhi after 26 years

Satvika Mahajan

The slogan '*Sabko Dekha, aa gayi Rekha*' (We have seen many, now Rekha has arrived), reverberated outside Rekha Gupta's home in Shalimar Bagh on February 19, as the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) affirmed its faith in her as the next Chief Minister of Delhi. The first-time MLA was sworn in along with her council of Ministers the very next day at the Ramlila Maidan.

A leader with grassroots links, Ms. Gupta will oversee a new era of the BJP in the capital. The saffron party has been in the Opposition in Delhi for nearly 26 years. Hours after the BJP emerged victorious on February 8, the immediate question that came up was who would be the party's pick for the top job. There were several front-runners, including sons of former Chief Ministers, former Delhi BJP presidents, and MLAs who stood against the Aam Aadmi Party's (AAP) tide. But Ms. Gupta, 50, emerged as the eventual answer.

While the pick surprised many, an insider in the BJP said the party has always rewarded those who have stood quietly in the waiting wings, not making a fuss about the responsibilities and duties given to them. Ms. Gupta is a prime example of exactly that. She stood as the Mayoral Candidate of the party in Corporation polls in 2023 against the AAP's Shelly Oberoi, despite knowing that the numbers were stacked against her.

Her grooming in politics began in 1992 with the Akhil Bharatiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, while she was a student at Daulat Ram College, Delhi University. She went on to serve as the Delhi University Student Union president in 1996. According to BJP leaders, during this time, she worked closely with J.P. Nadda, the current party president who was then the in-charge of the Delhi wing of the Yuva Morcha, and Union Minister Dharmendra Pradhan.

"Rekha *ji* has been active in politics from the 1990s. She has brought in change, she has worked on issues of women empowerment, encouraged parents to send their girls to school, and is a role model for many young women, hoping to enter politics," a councillor at the Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), who had worked with Ms. Gupta, said.

Clad in a saffron saree on February 20, Ms. Gupta folded her hands greeting Prime Minister Narendra Modi, other senior BJP leaders, and the crowd who had thronged the Ramlila Maidan to see her swearing-in as Delhi's fourth woman Chief Minister. "While the overt reasons to pick her included the fact that the BJP was looking to project a women face and someone from the Vaishya background, which is a sizeable population in the capital, she is someone who has worked in the background of the party for years, holding personality developmental courses for first-time women councillors during her first term, among other initiatives," said a party insider.

Non-objectionable face

Ms. Gupta is also a non-objectionable face within the Delhi unit, as she has not sided with any factions and comes with strong ground connections, say party workers, explaining that the leader has a good sense of what the public wants. In 2014, she initiated a party membership drive on DTC (Delhi Transport Corporation) buses.

A senior BJP leader who was part of this campaign said, "we boarded buses from the terminus near Shivaji Stadium and spent whole days on the move, connecting with citizens, and asking them to join the party".

Born on July 19, 1974, in Nandgarh village, Haryana, Rekha Gupta moved to Delhi with her family at the age of two. She formally joined the party in 2002. Her father was an employee of the State Bank of India. She served as the national secretary of the BJP's Yuva Morcha and made her debut in electoral politics in 2007 as an MCD Councillor.

ILLUSTRATION: R. RAJESH

Since then, Ms. Gupta has seen a steady rise within the BJP. She was made a National Executive Member of the party in 2012, and National General Secretary, Mahila Morcha, the women's wing of the party, in 2013. However, the journey has not always been smooth, as she lost Assembly elections in 2015 and 2020 from Shalimar Bagh constituency. However, in 2025, Ms. Gupta became a legislator for the first time from Shalimar Bagh, defeating incumbent Bandana Kumari of the AAP, with a majority of 29,595 votes.

Ms. Gupta has been lauded for her grassroot links with people, especially party workers. "After the 2020 Assembly polls, I was made an observer to appoint a district president from her area as the party was revamping its organisational structure after the loss. During my survey of the area, we found that approximately 87% *karyakartas* (party workers) voted for her. I had never seen such numbers before, but when I reached out to her to discuss this, she gave three names of people that can be chosen instead of hers," said a Lok Sabha member from Delhi.

"When I asked her why not her, she said, 'I have already been awarded by the party many times, a fresh face should take the reins now instead'," the MP told *The Hindu*.

BJP's promise

When Ms. Gupta was named the Chief Minister, a video from 2022 resurfaced, where she is seen breaking a microphone inside the MCD house as AAP and BJP members were clashing. Additionally, many objected to her old tweets about the AAP, and a statement from her, referring to students of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU) as 'freeloaders' when they had protested over hikes in hostel fees. She then encouraged people to protest against the university, stating, "I think that such a university should not exist in the country and should be stopped immediately".

But that's a different era. Now that she is the Chief Minister of Delhi, tall tasks are awaiting her. With the capital facing several challenges, and many in her Cabinet being senior to her within the party, Ms. Gupta has her job cut out. Immediately after the swearing-in ceremony, accompanied by party leaders, including State BJP in-charge Baijayant Panda and Delhi BJP president Virendra Sachdeva, Ms. Gupta told reporters that her government will not waste a single day in fulfilling the promises made by the party to Delhi – a 'Viksit Delhi for a Viksit Bharat'. For Chief Minister Gupta, '*Kaam hi Pehchan*' (Work is her identity).

THE GIST

- Born on July 19, 1974, in Nandgarh village, Haryana, Rekha Gupta formally joined the BJP in 2002. She served as the national secretary of the BJP's Yuva Morcha and made her debut in electoral politics in 2007 as an MCD Councillor
- She was made a National Executive Member of the party in 2012, and National General Secretary of Mahila Morcha in 2013
- She lost Assembly elections in 2015 and 2020 from Shalimar Bagh constituency, but defeated incumbent Bandana Kumari of the AAP, with 29,595 votes, in 2025

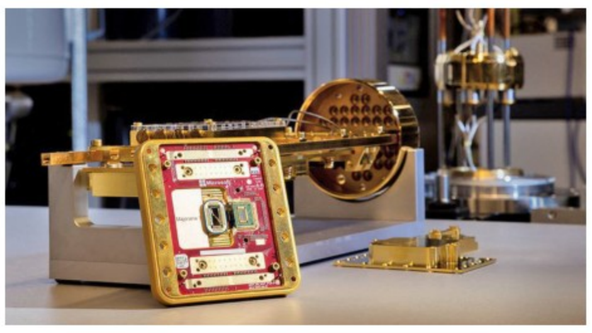
A quantum phenomenon

Majorana 1

Microsoft's new quantum chip may consist of particles with unusual properties that physicists believe could be used to build qubits that are less error-prone

Vasudevan Mukunth

In a head-turning announcement earlier this week, Microsoft unveiled a new quantum chip called Majorana 1. According to its press release, it consists of four qubits made of a "new state of matter".



Qubit is short for 'quantum bit', the fundamental unit of operations in a quantum computer, similar to classical bits in conventional computers. A single qubit represents more information than a single bit. A quantum computer heightens the advantages of this ability using quantum phenomena like superposition and entanglement to solve complex mathematical problems in fewer steps than perhaps the most powerful conventional computer.

Quantum computers differ depending on their choice of qubit. For example, Google's Willow chip uses small circuits that mimic the properties of atoms in a quantum state. Microsoft has said its new chip uses Majorana particles, elusive subatomic entities supposed to appear in materials called topological superconductors. These particles have unusual properties that physicists believe could be used to build qubits that are less error-prone than the designs Google and IBM use.

"Topological qubits can win if, and only if, they turn out to be so much more reliable that they leapfrog the earlier approaches...," University of Texas at Austin professor Scott Aaronson wrote on his blog. "Whether that will happen is still an open question, to put it extremely mildly."

A physics primer

If you cool some water vapour, it will become water and then ice. If you keep lowering the temperature until nearly absolute zero, the system will have minimal thermal energy, allowing quantum states of matter to show. In the 1970s, Michael Kosterlitz and David Thouless found that the surface of superfluid helium sometimes developed microscopic vortices that moved in pairs. When they raised the temperature, the vortices decoupled and moved freely. It was a new kind of quantum phase transition: the object's topological attributes changed in response to changes in energy.

Topology is the study of the properties an object retains when it is deformed continuously, e.g. when it's stretched but not ruptured. Topological materials are materials with topologically protected states: the 'protection' keeps the state stable against impurities or small disturbances. For example, a vortex in a bucket of water will fade as it loses kinetic energy. But vortices in superfluid helium are topologically protected. With the right internal conditions, they will keep spinning. Only quantum physics allows this.

Similarly, topological superconductors are materials whose ability to conduct an electric current without resistance is topologically protected. The signature of a topological superconductor is its ability to host Majorana particles. These materials are not found in nature. Instead, scientists engineer them in the lab to have the combination of internal properties that allows Majorana particles to exist. Microsoft has reportedly used indium arsenide with aluminium.

A fundamental tension

But since the announcement, independent experts have asked whether the new chip really has Majorana particles. Many previous attempts, including some sponsored by Microsoft, that claimed to have found these particles were later overturned by further scrutiny.

Microsoft's press release also claimed that a paper simultaneously published in *Nature* provided "peer-reviewed confirmation" that its team had created Majorana particles for use as qubits – but the paper, authored by the same team, stated that the work therein didn't test whether the particles were really Majorana. Microsoft researcher Chetan Nayak later clarified on Mr. Aaronson's blog that the team submitted the paper to *Nature* in March 2024 and that team members have "continued to make progress in the intervening year".

The contradiction still subtracted from confidence in Microsoft's claims because it had leaped from a paper describing older work to a press release making new claims. This is a familiar problem: when the private sector does cutting-edge research, its need to protect IP may prevent it from sharing all the information necessary to confirm the validity of a claim, at the expense of doing right by the research community whose approval it seeks.

For now, scientific opinion about the alleged prowess of Majorana 1 is uneven but also mostly sceptical. Microsoft thus has a lot to gain, or lose, by showing the chip at work, but its actions may have left it with little choice.

Chief of polls

Gyanesh Kumar

The Kerala cadre IAS officer is taking over as the CEC at a time when the Centre is pushing legislation to introduce simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies

Sreeparna Chakrabarty

ILLUSTRATION: SREEJITH R. KUMAR

Gyanesh Kumar, who took over as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India earlier this week, comes to the top position with the image of a man who delivers with a smile.

People who have interacted with him during his various stints in the government recall an affable bureaucrat always welcoming with a cup of 'Kahwa' (spiced green tea).

Mr. Kumar is also known to be a bureaucrat "thorough with his paperwork", and "ready to burn the midnight oil". During his tenure in the Union Home Ministry, he headed the Jammu and Kashmir desk and played a key role in policy implementation after the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 and the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir into the two Union territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir. He was also given the responsibility to formulate the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Bill by the Narendra Modi government.

During his five-year tenure in the Home Ministry, he was involved in the setting up of the 'Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust', which was another key focus area of the Modi government. "This is how he gained the trust of Union Home Minister Amit Shah," a source said.

Mr. Kumar would also be one of the longest serving CECs with an uninterrupted tenure of nearly four years till January 2029. This, combined with his expertise in doing spadework for sensitive legislation, is likely to be used by the government for implementing the key electoral reform of holding simultaneous polls to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

Two Bills, which aim to achieve One Nation One Election – 'The Constitution 129th Amendment Bill, 2024' and the 'The Union Territories Laws Amendment Bill, 2024', were introduced in the Lok Sabha on December 17 last year after the Union Cabinet accepted the recommendation of a high-level committee on the issue headed by former President Ramnath Kovind. A Joint Committee of Parliament is examining both the Bills.

Mammoth exercise

If passed, the Bills will allow simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies in 2034 if the five-year cycle of the legislature is not broken by early dissolution. As the CEC, Mr. Kumar and his successors will have to lay the groundwork for this mammoth exercise to fructify.

The Election Commission had earlier flagged that there was a need for a lead time for the production of Electronic Voting Machines and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trails (VVPAT), plans for their storage and maintenance, and administrative requirements to roll out simultaneous polls.

The importance of Mr. Kumar's tenure during this key period can be gauged from the fact that he was both the first Election Commissioner and the first Chief Election Commissioner to be appointed under the new law, the 'Chief Election Commissioner and other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023'.

The Opposition has claimed that the process followed under this law gives dominance to the ruling party in the selection process.

A 1988 batch Kerala cadre officer of the Indian Administrative Services, Gyanesh Kumar retired as Secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation on January 31, 2024.

After completing his B. Tech in Civil Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, he studied Business Finance from the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts and Environmental Economics from Harvard University.

Stints in Kerala

He has worked in the Government of Kerala in various capacities as sub-collector of Adoor, managing director of the Kerala State Development Corporation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, Municipal Commissioner of the Corporation of Cochin, MD of Kerala State Cooperative Bank, District Collector of Ernakulam, Secretary of Goshree Islands Development Authority, MD of Trivandrum Airport Development Society and Resident Commissioner of Kerala House in New Delhi.

As Secretary to the Government of Kerala, he has handled diverse departments such as Finance Resources, Fast Track Project, Public Works Department; Modernising Government Programme, and Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs.

At the Centre, he has worked as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Defence, Joint Secretary and Additional Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Secretary in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs and Secretary in the Ministry of Cooperation.

WELLINGTON

Chinese naval vessel fires live rounds in new drill: New Zealand

AFP

A Chinese naval cruiser fired live rounds during a drill in the Tasman Sea, prompting air traffic alerts, government officials said. This was the second exercise in two days, despite concerns from Australia and New Zealand over inadequate notice and safety protocols being followed internationally. AFP

PARIS

Macron 'will urge' Trump not to make allies 'suffer' with tariffs

REUTERS

French President Emmanuel Macron said on Saturday that he will urge U.S. President Donald Trump to avoid making allies "suffer" by imposing new tariffs on their goods. Since taking office last month, Mr. Trump has announced new tariffs across a range of sectors, sparking protests from allies Canada, Mexico, EU and others. AFP

KYIV

Zelenskyy is 'not ready' to sign minerals deal with United States

AFP

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is "not ready" to sign a minerals deal with the U.S., citing concerns over security guarantees and terms. The U.S. seeks $500 billion in minerals from Ukraine, far exceeding the $119.8 billion in aid provided, sparking a rift amid ongoing tensions and Russia's invasion. AFP

STRASBOURG

One dead, several police officers wounded in France knife attack

AFP

A knife attack in Mulhouse, France, killed one and seriously injured two police officers on Saturday. The suspect, a 37-year-old Algerian on a terror watchlist, was arrested. President Emmanuel Macron labelled it an "Islamist terror act". The PNAT is leading the investigation into the incident. AFP

Hamas frees 6 hostages in Gaza in exchange for Palestinian prisoners

Masked Hamas men stood on each side of the hostages, who appeared thin and pale, as they were made to wave; there are still 63 captives in Gaza, fewer than half of whom are believed to be alive; Israel delays release of hundreds of prisoners

Reuters
JERUSALEM

Final act: Israeli hostages show Hamas issued certificates before being handed over to the Red Cross in Nuseirat on Saturday. AP

Hamas freed six hostages from Gaza on Saturday, the last living Israeli captives slated for release under the first phase of a fragile ceasefire accord, in exchange for hundreds of Palestinian prisoners and detainees.

Eliya Cohen, 27, Omer Shem Tov, 22, and Omer Wenkert, 23 – all seized from the site of the Nova music festival in Hamas's October 7, 2023 attack on southern Israel, were handed over to the Red Cross in Nuseirat, central Gaza, to be transported to Israeli forces.

Dozens of militants stood guard in a crowd that had gathered to watch the handover, as masked Hamas men armed with automatic rifles stood on each side of the three men, who appeared thin and pale, as they were made to wave from the stage.

Tal Shoham, 40 and Avera Mengistu, 39, were earlier released in Rafah in southern Gaza.

The Hamas-directed releases, which have included public ceremonies in which captives are taken on stage and some made to speak, have faced mounting criticism, including from the United Nations, which denounced the "parading of hostages".

'Show of unity'

Hamas rejected the criticism on Saturday, describing the events as a solemn show of Palestinian unity. It later handed over a sixth hostage, Hisham Al-Sayed, 36, to the Red Cross in Gaza City with no ceremony.

The six are the last living hostages from a group of 33 due to be freed in the first stage of the three-phase ceasefire deal between Israel and Hamas that took effect on January 19.

Sixty-three more captives, less than half of whom are believed to be alive, remain in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Israeli officials said the release of Palestinian prisoners due on Saturday has been delayed. They said it may only happen after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convenes a security consultation later on Saturday. The sources did not provide a clear reason for the delay.

Trump fires U.S. General in unprecedented shake-up

Reuters
WASHINGTON

General C.Q. Brown

President Donald Trump on Friday fired the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Air Force General C.Q. Brown, and pushed out five other Admirals and Generals in an unprecedented shake-up of U.S. military leadership.

Mr. Trump said in a post on Truth Social that he would nominate retired Lieutenant General Dan "Razin" Caine to succeed General Brown.

A former F-16 fighter pilot, General Caine was the associate director of military affairs at the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) until late last year.

Mr. Trump will also replace the head of the U.S. Navy, a position held by Admiral Lisa Franchetti, the first woman to lead a military service, as well as the Air Force Vice-Chief of Staff and judge advocates-general for the Army, Navy and Air Force, the Pentagon said.

Mass firings

Mr. Trump's decision sets off a period of upheaval at the Pentagon, which was already bracing for mass firings of civilian staff, a dramatic overhaul of its Budget and a shift in military deployments under Mr. Trump's new America First foreign policy.

While the Pentagon's civilian leadership changes from one administration to the next, the uniformed members of U.S. armed forces are meant to be apolitical, carrying out the policies of Democratic and Republican administrations.

General Brown, the second Black officer to become the President's top uniformed military adviser, had been expected to complete his entire four-year term in September 2027.

A United States official said General Brown was relieved with immediate effect, even before the Senate confirms his successor.

U.S. proposes UN text omitting Ukraine's occupied territory

Agence France-Presse
UNITED NATIONS

Marco Rubio

The United States proposed on Friday a UN resolution on the Ukraine conflict that omitted any mention of Kyiv's territory occupied by Russia, diplomatic sources said.

Secretary of State Marco Rubio urged UN members to approve the "simple, historic" resolution.

Washington's proposal comes amid an intensifying feud between President Donald Trump and President Volodymyr Zelenskyy which has seen Mr. Trump claim it was "not important" for his Ukrainian counterpart to be involved in peace talks.

It also appeared to rival a separate draft resolution produced by Kyiv and its European allies, countries that Mr. Trump has also sought to sideline from talks on the future of the three-year-old war. The Ukrainian-European text stresses the need to redouble diplomatic efforts to end the war this year, noting several initiatives to that end, while also blaming Russia for the invasion and committing to Kyiv's "territorial integrity".

'Pope is in critical condition, suffered respiratory crisis'

Associated Press
ROME

Doctors warn that the main threat facing Pope Francis would be the onset of sepsis

Pope Francis was in critical condition on Saturday after he suffered a long asthmatic respiratory crisis that required high flows of oxygen, the Vatican said.

The 88-year-old Francis, who has been hospitalised for a week with a complex lung infection, also received blood transfusions after tests showed a condition associated with anaemia, the Vatican said in a late update.

"The Holy Father continues to be alert and spent the day in an armchair although in more pain than yesterday. At the moment, the prognosis is reserved," the statement said.

Earlier, doctors said that Pope Francis was battling a pneumonia and a complex respiratory infection that doctors say remains touch-and-go and will keep him hospitalised for at least another week.

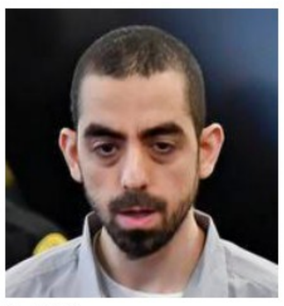
Doctors have warned that the main threat facing Pope Francis would be the onset of sepsis, a serious infection of the blood that can occur as a complication of pneumonia.

Sepsis can lead to organ failure and death.

"Sepsis, with his respiratory problems and his age, would be really difficult to get out of," a doctor said.

Man found guilty of attempting to kill Salman Rushdie, to be sentenced in April

Agence France-Presse
NEW YORK



Hadi Matar

An American-Lebanese man was found guilty on Friday of attempting to kill novelist Salman Rushdie when storming a stage and repeatedly plunging a knife into the *Satanic Verses* author.

Hadi Matar faces up to 25 years in prison and will be sentenced in April after being convicted of attempted murder and assault charges over the 2022 attack.

Matar's legal team had sought to prevent witnesses from characterising Mr. Rushdie as a victim of persecution following Iran's 1989 fatwa calling for his murder over supposed blasphemy in *The Satanic Verses*.

Mr. Rushdie had told jurors of Matar "stabbing and slashing" him during an event at an upscale cultural centre in rural New York.

"It was a stab wound in my eye, intensely painful, after that I was screaming because of the pain," Mr. Rushdie said, adding he was left in a "lake of blood". He said it "occurred to me I was dying" before he was helicoptered to a trauma hospital.

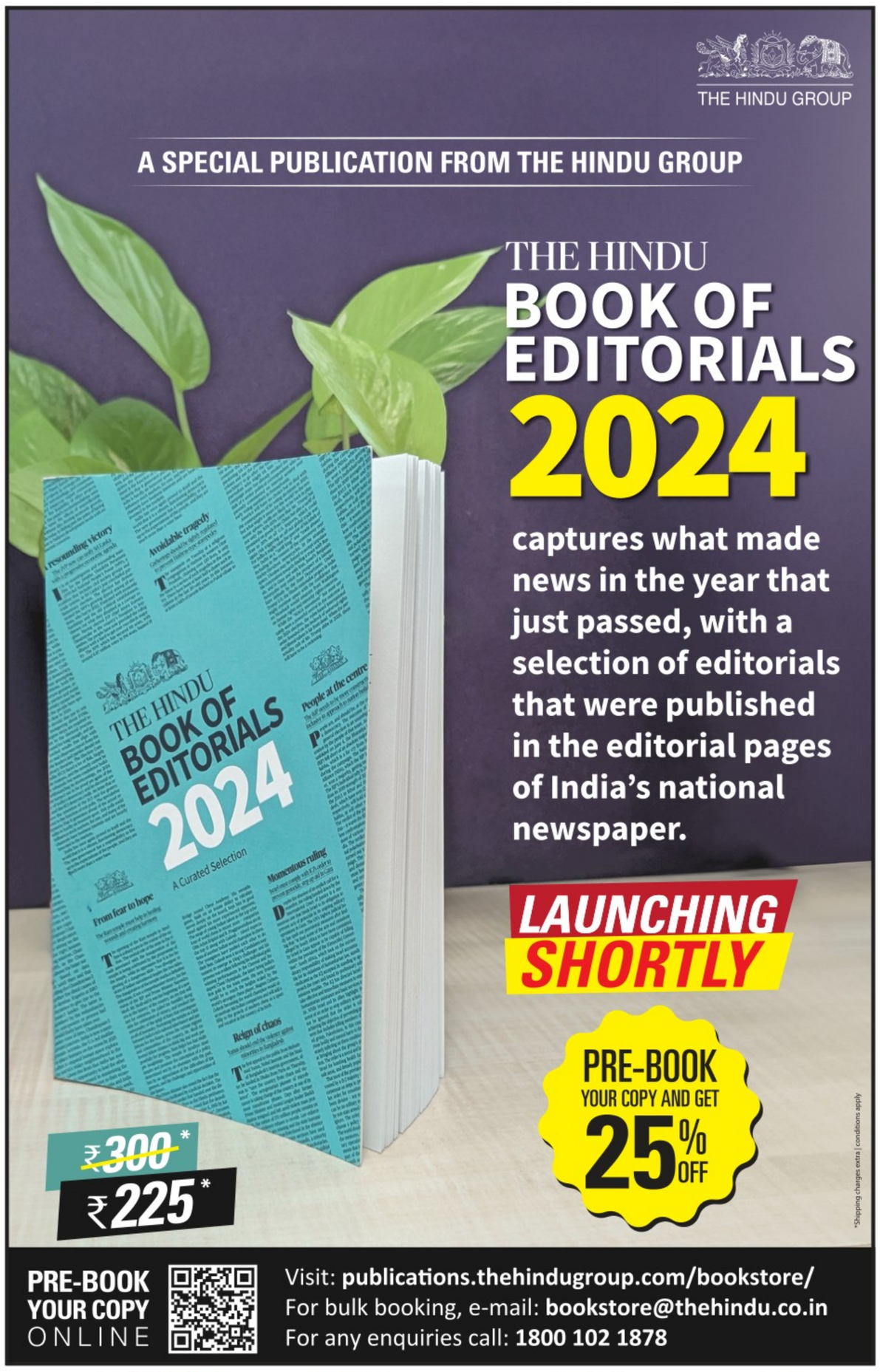
Jurors heard closing arguments from both prosecutors and defence lawyers before retiring briefly to consider their verdict on Friday. They deliberated for less than two hours.

Matar was found guilty of stabbing Mr. Rushdie about 10 times with a six-inch blade that had been shown to witnesses and the court.

The defendant shouted pro-Palestinian slogans on several occasions during the trial.

Matar, from New Jersey, previously told media he had only read two pages of *The Satanic Verses* but believed the author had "attacked Islam".

After the novel was published in 1988, Mr. Rushdie became the centre of a fierce tug-of-war between free speech advocates and those who insisted that insulting religion, particularly Islam, was unacceptable in any circumstance.



EXTRA PUSH

Kohli turns up two hours early for pre-match practice session

AFP

Virat Kohli came in two hours ahead for the pre-match practice session on Saturday along with Sitanshu Kotak to bat against local spinners and address his recent struggles against the tweakers. Kohli has fallen to the slower bowlers in his last six outings, five times to leggies and once to a left-armer spinner.

HEADS OR TAILS?

Toss not a huge factor as long as dew is not there, feels Gill

PTI

Shubman Gill felt that the toss won't play a huge factor as long as there was no dew. "Toss, I don't think, will play a big part because the dew has not been there [so far]. In a big match, the team batting second will feel more pressure if dew is not present. Whoever handles pressure well will have a better chance."

EXPERT HELP

Pakistan turns to Mudassar for inputs ahead of marquee clash

PTI

Former Pakistan cricketer Mudassar Nazar chipped in with his valuable inputs at a training session. Mudassar, who has been an interim head coach of the UAE men's team, spoke to the players on Friday. The 68-year-old said he shared his wisdom on the conditions and expressed confidence Pakistan could get its first win.

HIGH STAKES

What's left in India-Pakistan game if you take out pressure, asks Aaqib

AFP

Pakistan head coach Aaqib Javed said that the high-stakes nature of India-Pakistan games offered players the best chance to showcase their skills. "It doesn't matter if it's a knockout. It's the best time and opportunity for any individual to make a mark. What's left in an India-Pakistan game if you take out this pressure?"

Can Pakistan's pace breach India's batting might?

The defending champion desperately needs a win to keep its semifinal hopes alive; the Men in Blue will also look to their three-pronged spin force to pin the opposition down

CHAMPIONS TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
DUBAI

There are many fabled sporting rivalries worldwide, be it between clubs or nation-states. However, it wouldn't be hyperbole to say that an India-Pakistan fixture on the cricket field trumps most contests, and continues to be fierce.

On Sunday, the latest instalment of cricket's 'El Classico' – 136th in ODIs – will get under way at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium when the arch-rivals meet in their second Group-A match of the Champions Trophy.

Pakistan, the host, has had to make a short hop to the Arabian peninsula after India's refusal to play in the former's home soil.

While the hype and buzz surrounding an India-Pakistan game never seems to subside – kept at fever pitch in no small measure by the International Cricket Council (ICC), and the broadcasters who come up with over-the-top promotions – the action on the field has failed to live up to expectations in recent times.

The Men in Blue have come out on top in five of their last six ODI meetings (the other was a no-result because of rain). The last time Pakistan triumphed was in the 2017 summit clash of this very tournament. The two outfits will enter the 'Ring of Fire' in contrasting frames of mind. Fresh off a convincing win against Bangladesh in the opener, India looks like a well-oiled machine. Pakistan, on the other hand, has its back to the wall, having lost its opening match to New Zealand and desperately seeking a victory to stay afloat.

As is often the case in India-Pakistan encounters, it is set to be a battle between the former's batting might against the latter's pace attack. Shubman Gill, who scored an unbeaten ton, and skipper Rohit Sharma laid down the marker against Bangladesh and will look to stick to their aggressive approach.

The team will also hope that Virat Kohli can get back among the runs.

India, propelled by Mohammed Shami's five-wicket haul, did well to restrict the Tigers to a modest score, and if the pitch remains as dry as the one used against Bangladesh, India's three-pronged spin attack will fancy its chances of keeping the Pakistan batters quiet.

The 'home' team, which otherwise has a dismal record against its great rival in ODI matches at ICC events, holds a slight edge in the Champions Trophy (3-2). That, and the memories of the two wins at this venue (in T20Is in 2021 and 2022) are something Mohammad Rizwan's men will seek inspiration from.

Pakistan has issues to address. Fakhar Zaman is out with an injury and it remains to be seen who from Imam-ul-Haq – who was not initially in the squad – and Usman Khan takes his place. Former skipper Babar Azam, who was criticised for his sedate 64 from 90 balls in the failed 321-run chase against the Kiwis, needs to step up.

Though the pace trio of Shaheen Afridi, Haris Rauf and Naseem Shah look menacing, the lack of spin-bowling depth – the only front-line tweaker being Abrar Ahmed – is concerning.

Recent form and squad depth give Rohit's men an edge and Rizwan's troops will need to summon the spirit of the 'Cornered Tigers', made famous by the legendary Imran Khan during the march to the 1992 World Cup crown.

The teams (from): Pakistan: Mohammad Rizwan (Capt.), Salman Ali Agha (vice-capt.), Babar Azam, Iman-ul-Haq, Kamran Ghulam, Saud Shakeel, Tayyab Tahir, Faheem Ashraf, Khushdil Shah, Usman Khan, Abrar Ahmed, Haris Rauf, Mohammad Hasnain, Naseem Shah, Shaheen Shah Afridi.

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Shubman Gill (vice-capt.), Virat Kohli, Shreyas Iyer, K.L, Rahul (wk), Rishabh Pant (wk), Hardik Pandya, Axar Patel, Washington Sundar, Kuldeep Yadav, Harshit Rana, Mohd. Shami, Arshdeep Singh, Ravindra Jadeja, Varun Chakaravarthy.

Umpires: Paul Reiffel and Richard Illingworth; **TV umpire:** Michael Gough; **Fourth umpire:** Adrian Holdstock; **Match Referee:** David Boon.

Match starts at 2.30 p.m. (IST).

Ring of fire

India, which lost the 2017 final, will be thirsting for revenge while Pakistan, which suffered a reverse in its opening game, will be looking for survival at the Dubai International Cricket Stadium on Sunday

INDIA-PAKISTAN H2H IN ODIs

Overall matches: 135

India: 57 | Pakistan: 73 | NR: 5

IN CHAMPIONS TROPHY

M	India	Pakistan
5	2	3

2004: Pakistan won by three wickets (group stage), Birmingham

2009: Pakistan won by 54 runs (group stage), Centurion

2013: India won by eight wickets, D-L Method (group stage), Birmingham

2017: India won by 124 runs, D-L Method (group stage), Birmingham

2017: Pakistan won by 180 runs (final), The Oval

In Dubai International Cricket Stadium

M	India	Pakistan
2	2	0

2018: India won by eight wickets (group stage), Asia Cup

2018: India won by nine wickets (super four), Asia Cup

IMPACT PLAYERS (INDIA-PAKISTAN ODIs)

India		Pakistan
Rohit (873, 19 inns)	Most runs	**Babar** (218, 7 inns)
Kohli (183), Mirpur, 2012	Highest	**Babar** (50), Ahmedabad, 2023
Kuldeep (12, 5 inns), Jadeja (12, 11 inns)	Most wickets	**Afridi** (7, 4 inns)
Kuldeep (5/25), Colombo, 2023	Best bowling	**Afridi** (4/35), Pallekele, 2023

**Players from the current squads*

"We have been playing some good ODI cricket, but by no means are we going to take them lightly"
SHUBMAN GILL, India vice-captain

"We have one of the best pace bowling options in today's game with Shaheen [Afridi], Naseem [Shah] and Haris [Rauf]. It reminds me of the 1990s troika (Wasim Akram, Waqar Younis and I)"
AAQIB JAVED, Pakistan coach

Inglis spells trouble for the Englishmen

Perfect timing: Inglis guided Australia home in a record chase. AP

Shayan Acharya
LAHORE

Josh Inglis' maiden ODI century helped Australia get off to a flying start with a five-wicket win over England in the Champions Trophy here on Saturday. This was also the highest successful run chase in men's ICC ODI events.

Records tumbled at the Gaddafi Stadium as Ben Duckett (165, 143b, 17x4, 3x6) registered the highest individual score in the tournament to guide England to 351 for eight before Inglis (120 n.o., 86b, 8x4, 6x6) powered Australia home.

With heavy dew settling in as the evening progressed, the England bowlers struggled to build on pressure, allowing Inglis to forge a 146-run stand for the fifth wicket with Alex Carey.

While Inglis played a flawless innings, Carey got a reprieve on 49 when Jofra Archer dropped a regulation catch.

That, eventually, proved to be the turning point of the game as Carey and Inglis took control before Brydon Carse removed the former.

However, a calm Inglis partnered with the seasoned Glenn Maxwell, who chipped in with an unbeaten 15-ball-32-run cameo, to guide the team home.

As a packed stadium chanted his name, Inglis sealed the deal with a six over deep mid-wicket off Mark Wood. While it was a steady start by Australia with Matthew Short bringing up a fifty, things could have gone haywire for the side had Inglis and Carey not stepped up when the team was struggling at 136 for four.

As the Australian camp gave a standing ovation to Inglis, it was heartbreak for England and Duckett.

The scores:
England 351/8 in 50 overs (Duckett 165, Root 68, Dwarshuis 3/66) lost to Australia 356/5 in 47.3 overs (Short 63, Labuschagne 47, Inglis 120 n.o., Carey 69).
Toss: Australia; **PoM:** Inglis.

Henry blitz flattens Capitals as Warriorz taste maiden success

WPL

Ashwin Achal
BENGALURU

An electrifying knock from Chinelle Henry set up UP Warriorz's 33-run win over Delhi Capitals in the Women's Premier League at the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium here on Saturday. Henry's 23-ball 62, which included two fours and eight sixes, was the highlight of Warriorz's first win of the tournament.

The West Indian was all brute power, hammering her way to the joint-fastest fifty (18b) in WPL history. She came in with her side in trouble at 89 for six, and by the time she was done, Warriorz had moved to a challenging 177 for nine. Henry enjoyed a bit of luck, when she was put down by Marizanne Kapp on 13. Henry's pyrotechnics helped the team pile up 67 in the last four overs. Left-arm spinner Jess Jonassen was the best DC bowler on view, picking up four wickets.

Capitals' hopes in the chase rested heavily on Shafali Verma and Jemimah Rodrigues. The duo was incredibly fortunate as Warriorz were shocking in the field, dropping no less than four catches - three by Saima Thakor and one by Uma Chetry. Wicketkeeper Uma added to the misery by missing two stumpings.

Raining boundaries: Henry smashed two fours and eight sixes as she turned things around for Warriorz. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Despite the largesse, DC failed to capitalise. Shafali managed a 30-ball 24, before Saima finally held on to a chance at deep-point. Jemimah (56, 35b, 8x4, 1x6) kept her team in the hunt, but when she fell in the 15th over, it was curtains for DC. Medium-pacer Kranti Goud (4/25) did the star turn with the ball.

Keeping a good length, she scalped the key wicket of opener Meg Lanning in the PowerPlay. Her spell ended with Jemimah's dismissal, capping a memorable night for the Madhya Pradesh cricketer.

Off-spinner Grace Harris performed a hat-trick, scalping the last three DC wickets in the final over. She is the third to do so after Issy Wong (MI, 2023) and Deepti Sharma (UPW, 2024).

The scores:
UP Warriorz 177/9 in 20 overs (Chinelle Henry 62, Jess Jonassen 4/31) bt Delhi Capitals 144 in 19.3 overs (Jemimah Rodrigues 56, Kranti Goud 4/25, Grace Harris 4/15, including a hat-trick).
Toss: Capitals; **PoM:** Henry.
Monday's match: RCB vs. Warriorz, 7.30 p.m.

Indian women snap losing streak; men thrash Ireland

FIH PRO LEAGUE

Uthra Ganesan
BHUBANESWAR

On Friday, Indian women's coach Harendra Singh had insisted that his girls were good enough to beat Germany but had faltered in crucial areas.

On Saturday, they appeared to have finally listened to the coach and, in the process, won 1-0 for their first win over their opponents in regulation time in 10 years.

The Indian men, meanwhile, continued their winning run with a 4-0 victory against Ireland to climb to fourth spot on the table in the FIH Pro League.

It was the Indian women's second win in the tournament. There was an urgency to India's game and it paid off when Deepika sounded the board in the 12th minute, converting the team's first and one of only two PCs.

For the men, Craig Fulton made six changes to the line-up from the previous game but the end result was the same, India dominating proceedings right from the start and controlling the game.

The trio of Angad Bir Singh, Dilpreet Singh and Araijeet Singh Hundal kept up the pressure upfront while Hardik and Manpreet Singh took charge in the middle. The Indians did not allow the Irish to venture anywhere close to their circle, the latter managing only two entries that produced little.

The results: Women: The Netherlands 6 (Marijn Veen 2, Joosje Burg 35, Fay van der Elst 39, Felice Albers 45, Frederique Matla 50, Eline Jansen 54) bt England 0; India 1 (Deepika 12) bt Germany 0. **Men:** India 4 (Nilam Sanjeep Xess 14, Mandeep Singh 24, Abhishek 28, Shamsher Singh 34) bt Ireland 0.

On the charge: Deepika scored India's winner. BISWARANJAN ROUT

West Ham upends Arsenal

EURO LEAGUES

Agence France-Presse
LIVERPOOL

Arsenal's Premier League title challenge suffered a massive blow as the 10-man Gunners were beaten 1-0 at home by lowly West Ham on Saturday.

Jarrod Bowen headed in the only goal.

Defeat leaves second-placed Arsenal still eight points adrift of leader Liverpool.

Bruno Fernandes inspired a Manchester United rally from two goals down to avoid another loss for Ruben Amorim in a 2-2 draw at Everton.

The results:
Premier League: Everton 2 (Beto 19, Doucoure 33) drew with Manchester United 2 (Fernandes 72, Ugarte 80); Arsenal 0 lost to West Ham 1 (Bowen 44).
Bournemouth 0 lost to Wolves 1 (Cunha 36); Fulham 0 lost to Crystal Palace 2 (Andersen 37-og, Munoz 66).
Ipswich 1 (Hutchinson 36) lost to Tottenham 4 (Johnson 18, 26, Spence 77, Kulusevski 84); Southampton 0 lost to Brighton 4 (Pedro 23, Rutter 56, Mitoma 71, Hinshelwood 82).
On Friday: Premier League: Leicester 0 lost to Brentford 4 (Wissa 17, Mbeumo 27, Norgaard 32, Carvalho 89).
LaLiga: Celta Vigo 1 (Iago Aspas 69-pen) bt Osasuna 0.
Serie A: Lecce 0 lost to Udinese 1 (Luca 32-pen).
Bundesliga: Freiburg 5 (Sildialli 15, Grifo 33, 57, Doan 76, 90+2) bt Werder Bremen 0.

INBRIEF

COURTESY: SARFARAZ ASHRAF

Dravid turns up for league, has a stint with son Anvay

It was a day to remember for all in KSCA Group I, Division III league match in Bengaluru on Saturday for turning up for Vijaya Cricket Club (Malur) was none other than former India captain Rahul Dravid. The stalwart played alongside his son, Anvay, and had a brief 17-run partnership for the fifth wicket, against Young Lions Club. Wicketkeeper-batter Anvay made a 60-ball 58, while 52-year-old Rahul made an eight-ball 10 in the 50-over encounter. For Young Lions Club left-arm wrist-spinner Sarfaraz Ashraf, it was a dream come true. "We did not know that Rahul sir was playing, until we reached the ground. It was the most amazing experience to play against a legend," Ashraf, who has turned out for Jharkhand and Bihar in domestic cricket, told *The Hindu*. The commitment to the cause was undeniable, as Rahul stayed on the field for the full Young Lions Club chase. "Rahul sir did not even take a break. He moved between slip, cover and mid-wicket and gave his very best. To play against him served as a motivation for all of us. We were all very keen to impress him," Ashraf, who made a 29-ball 43 and picked up one wicket, said. At the end of the outing, Dravid made time to interact with all the players and accommodated photo requests. "Rahul sir is truly a man of class," Ashraf said.

— **Ashwin Achal**

Indian archers bag five gold medals in Asia Cup

Indian archers claimed eight medals, including five gold, to finish atop the medals table at the Asia Cup Stage-1 in Bangkok on Saturday.

The results: Recurve: Individual: Men: Gold medal match: Vishnu Choudhary bt Rahul 6-2.
Women: Gold: Basanti Mahato bt Fong You Jhu (Tpe) 6-4;
Team: Men: Gold: India (Vishnu Choudhary, Goldi Mishra, Rahul) bt China (Gu Shen, Yang Jiabing, Zhang Chengming) 5-1.
Mixed: Gold: China (Wu Jiaxin, Zhang Chengming) bt India (Basanti Mahato, Vishnu Choudhary) 6-0.
Compound: Individual: Men: Gold: Kushal Dalal bt Choi Yonghee (Kor) 148-144.
Team: Men: Gold: India (Kushal Dalal, Manav Jadhao, Ganesh Mani Ratnam Thirumuru) bt Malaysia (Mohd. Juwaidi Mazuki, Mohd. Syafiq Ariffin, Alang Muhammad Ghazalli) 237-233;
Women: Bronze: India (Avneet Kaur, Madhuravarshini Muruganatham, Chikitha Taniparthi) bt Iran (Bita Asheghzadeh, Armin Pakzad) 232-232 (shoot-off: 28*-28, shot closer to the target).

LIVE TELECAST

Champions Trophy: Pakistan vs India, Star Sports 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 2.30 p.m.
Hockey: Pro League, SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 & 6 p.m.
Zimbabwe vs Ireland: 2nd T20I, FanCode, 5 p.m.
Serie A: gxr.world, 5, 7.30, 10.30 p.m. & 1.15 a.m. (Monday)
LaLiga: gxr.world, 6.30, 8.45, 11 p.m. & 1.30 a.m. (Monday)
Premier League: SS Select 1 & 2 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 & 10 p.m.
ISL: Sports 18-3 & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Bundesliga: Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 8, 10 p.m. & 12 a.m. (Monday)

Baby savours Kerala's journey from underdog to the Ranji Trophy final

The skipper attributes this progress to all the hard work done behind the scenes, including starting preparations very early and signing Sarwate

P.K. Ajith Kumar
KOZHIKODE

Pivotal: Jalaj shows the helmet off which a deflected catch was taken to hand Kerala the ticket to the summit clash. R.V. MOORTHY

Sachin Baby was unlucky on his Ranji Trophy debut. He had been batting impressively when he was run out for 32, going for a run that wasn't there.

That was in late 2009, against Andhra, at Thalassery. Some 15 years later, lady luck smiled on Baby, Kerala's captain, in another Ranji Trophy match.

A deflection off the helmet of Salman Nizar at short leg flew towards slip, where Baby took the most unforgettable catch of his career, and that of the Kerala cricket team. Kerala took the first-innings lead of two runs against Gujarat at Ahmedabad and entered the Ranji Trophy final for the first time ever.

"This the happiest moment of my career," Baby told *The Hindu* over the phone from Ahmedabad on Saturday, a day after the semifinal. "To play the Ranji Trophy final has been my dream for all these years."

He has seen from close quarters the transformation Kerala has undergone from underdog to Ranji Trophy finalist. "A lot of effort has gone into that, and we have had total backing from the Kerala Cricket Association," he said. "We have gone on exposure tours ahead of the season to countries like Australia and South Africa.

"And we would begin our preparations long before the season started in October. We would begin in July, and when it rained in Kerala, we used to go to Karnataka, or somewhere else, for our training.

"The players from other States would ask why our preparation started so early. Another reason for the improvement we made is the infrastructure that the KCA put in place all over the State."

Baby said the team was determined to make it to the final this season. "And we all worked hard for that, under the new coach Amay Khurasia," he said. "I had told him that we wanted to strengthen the lower-order. He agreed with me, and we made our bowlers work on their batting, too. And that proved beneficial as our tail made valuable runs at crucial junctures."

Picking Aditya Sarwate as the professional also proved a wise decision. "We wanted someone to support Jalaj Saxena from the other end," Baby said. "And Aditya was the right choice, given his vast experience." Between them, Jalaj and Sarwate picked up 68 wickets. The leading scorers for Kerala have been Salman Nizar and Mohmmed Azharuddeen. "Their presence bolstered our lower middle-order," said Baby. "Now we are all looking forward to the final against Vidarbha."

The final will get underway at Nagpur on Wednesday.

Wadkar's friendly warning to Sarwate

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Wadkar with his daughter Raghavi. AMOL KARHADKAR

Akshay Wadkar and Aditya Sarwate are the only two cricketers to have featured in each of Vidarbha's three Ranji Trophy finals so far. Come Saturday and the duo will yet again enter the Vidarbha Cricket Association Stadium on the outskirts of Nagpur, albeit with a difference. In what will be Vidarbha's fourth Ranji final, the duo will be in opposite camps.

While Wadkar – who debuted in Vidarbha's maiden triumphant season – will lead Vidarbha's quest for its third Ranji title, Sarwate will be hoping to add another trophy to his cabinet, having switched over to Kerala as a guest player at the start of the domestic season.

"It will be slightly odd, no doubt. All of us know each other so well. We hang out together. He is a class bowler, with 300-plus wickets (in First Class cricket) and scores crucial runs whenever the team needs it. But I don't think it will be too much of a factor," Wadkar told *The Hindu* after celebrating Vidarbha's victory against Mumbai on Friday.

Despite heaping praise on his former teammate, Wadkar did not budge from cautioning Sarwate. "In fact, if it all it will be a factor, it will be to our advantage. All of us have played with and against him so frequently, so we know exactly his strengths and weaknesses," Wadkar said. Left-arm spin allrounder Harsh Dubey has ensured Vidarbha has not felt Sarwate's absence at all this season by filling his shoes to perfection.

Arya carries on with splendid form

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Arya continues splendid form, cracks unbeaten 192

Nitish Arya continued his splendid form by scoring an unbeaten 192 and leading Max Muller High School to eight-wicket victory over Delhi Public School (East) in the semifinals of the B.T. Ramaiah Shield under-14 first division tournament.

In the summit clash, Max Muller will meet St. Joseph's Boys High School, which beat Presidency School (R.T. Nagar) by 37 runs.

The scores: Semifinals: DPS (East) 266/9 in 50 overs (V. Niraj 57, Anirudh Venkata Rayasam 53, Saurjyesh Das 31, Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 3/28, M. Neeraj 3/41) lost to Max Muller HS 270/2 in 37.3 overs (Nitish Arya 192 n.o., Rafa Poonacha Ballachanda 52).

St. Joseph's BHS 249/5 in 50 overs (Prabhav Pydah 65, M. Siddharth Karumbaiah 55, Aarav Bajaj 31, C.M. Naksh 29 n.o.) bt Presidency School (R.T. Nagar) 212/4 in 50 overs (Niranjan Ashok 81, Aaryan Nagesh 26, V. Kiran 38 n.o.).

Jeevan-Vijay duo clinches yet another doubles crown

Sports Bureau

Successful partnership: Jeevan and Vijay won their sixth title as a pair. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Top seeds Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan and Vijay Sundar Prashanth beat second seeds Blake Bayldon and Matthew Romios of Australia 3-6, 6-3, [10-0] in the doubles final of the Pune Metropolitan $160,000 Maha Open Challenger tennis tournament at the Balewadi Stadium in Pune on Saturday.

It was the sixth title as a pair for Jeevan and Vijay who had won their first title together in 2012. The champion collected 100 ATP points and $7,960. The runner-up pocketed 60 points and $4,600.

It was the 35th doubles crown in the professional circuit for the 36-year-old Jeevan. It was the 27th title for the 38-year-old Vijay. The two had won the Tour event last year in Hangzhou.

In singles, sixth seed Brandon Holt of USA set up a title clash with Dalibor Svrcina of the Czech Republic.

Brandon beat eighth seed Alexis Galarneau of Canada 7-5, 6-4, after having led 5-0 in the first set. Dalibor had to fight his way past Khumoyun Sultanov of Uzbekistan after losing the first set in the tie-break. However, the Uzbek retired while trailing 1-3 in the decider owing to exhaustion.

It has been a consistent run in the three Challengers in India for the 22-year-old Dalibor, who had made the semifinals in Chennai and the second round in Delhi. He will be looking for his maiden Challenger title.

The 26-year-old Brandonwill be looking for his second Challenger crown this season, after having won the Nonthaburi Challenger in Thailand.

The results: Singles (semifinals): Brandon Holt (USA) bt Alexis Galarneau (Can) 7-5, 6-4; Dalibor Svrcina (Cze) bt Khumoyun Sultanov (Uzb) 6-7(8), 6-0, 3-1 (retired). **Doubles (final):** Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Blake Bayldon & Matthew Romios (Aus) 3-6, 6-3, [10-0].

East Bengal punishes Punjab's defensive lapses

ISL

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

Celebration time: Chungnunga was among the scorers. ISL

Defensive blunders and profligacy in attack have been recurring problems for Punjab FC in its meandering Indian Super League campaign. It didn't show much improvement on either front on a balmy Saturday evening as East Bengal prevailed 3-1 at the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium.

The Kolkata giant seized the initiative in the 15th minute when it pounced on a defensive error from Punjab centre-back Suresh Meitei. With Meitei making a hash of what should have been a straightforward clearance, the ball found Dimitrios Diamantakos on the left side of the 18-yard box. Although the angle wasn't ideal for a shot, the EBFC forward decided to take aim rather than find a teammate with a cross. It paid off as his attempt thudded into the back of the net through the legs of goalkeeper Ravi Kumar.

In the 47th minute, the visitor went 2-0 up through Naorem Mahesh Singh. Just seven minutes later, the handful of EBFC supporters inside the stadium found their voices again as Lal Chungnunga made it 3-0 by burying the ball into the net with a powerful right-footed shot.

A stunner from Ezequiel Vidal in the 62nd minute helped the men in orange pull one back. With the ball falling to Vidal on the half-volley on the edge of the box, the Argentine exhibited exemplary technique to score his sixth goal of the season. It was too little too late for Punjab though.

The results: PFC 1 (Vidal 62) lost to EBFC 3 (Diamantakos 15, Naorem Mahesh 47, Chungnunga 54).
At Margao: FCG 2 (Guarrotxena 46, Yasir 73) bt KBFC 0.

Cherie Chevalier should make amends in the N. Nari Reddy Memorial Million

HYDERABAD: The three-year-old gelding Cherie Chevalier, who finished second in his last start, should make amends in the N. Nari Reddy Memorial Million, the feature event of Sunday's (Feb. 23) races.

1 OLYMPIC FLAME PLATE (Div. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) 4-y-o – 1.15 p.m.: 1. Country's Dictator (5) G. Naresh 56, 2. Philodendron (1) Md. Ismail 56, 3. State Man (8) Mukesh 56, 4. Divine Faith (7) P. Ajeeth K 54.5, 5. Her Ladyship (6) Santosh Raj 54.5, 6. La Fleuriere (4) Kuldeep Jr. 54.5, 7. Nijinsky Star (3) Alex Rozario 54.5 and 8. Senti (2) R.S. Jodha 54.5.
1. PHILODENDRON, 2. DIVINE FAITH, 3. NIJINKSY STAR

2 OLYMPIC FLAME PLATE (Div. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II) – 1.50: 1. Quick Bay Fox (8) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 2. Sound Wave (2) Mukesh 56, 3. Desert Flower (5) Gaurav 54.5, 4. Gusto's Baby (4) Alex Rozario 54.5, 5. Konaseema (7) Abhay 54.5, 6. Mexican Wave (3) R.S. Jodha 54.5, 7. Petaluma (1) P. Ajeeth K 54.5 and 8. Silver Screen (6) Md. Ekram 54.5.
1. GUSTO'S BABY, 2. KONASEEMA, 3. SILVER SCREEN

3 SHRAVAN KUMAR MEMORIAL CUP (Div. II) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 2.25: 1. Oliver's Mount (2) Shivansh 60, 2. Romantic Grey (3) Alex Rozario 59.5, 3. Mix The Magic (1) Mukesh 58.5, 4. Born Brave (5) Kuldeep Sr. 58, 5. Knotty Senorita (8) P. Sai K 57, 6. Worcester (4) A.A. Vikrant 57, 7. Sweet Dancer (9) P. Ajeeth K 56, 8. Ariette (6) Santosh Raj 55 and 9. Sangreal (7) G. Naresh 54.5.
1. ROMANTIC GREY, 2. BORN BRAVE, 3. MIX THE MAGIC

4 RAJA R.J.K. RANGA RAO ZAMINDAR OF CHIKKAVARAM MEMORIAL TROPHY (Div. I) (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 3.00: 1. Miss Marvellous (11) Shivansh 60, 2. Sucker Punch (3) P. Ajeeth K 60, 3. N R I Skypower (1) Kuldeep Sr. 59, 4. Swiss Girl (8) Deepak 58.5, 5. Char Ek Char (6) A.A. Vikrant 56.5, 6. Glimmer Of Hope (7) Gaurav 56, 7. Smart Boy (2) Mukesh 55.5, 8. City Cruise (4) Md. Ekram 54, 9. D Battle (10) P. Sai K 53, 10. Politics (5) G. Naresh 51.5 and 11. Jet Falcon (9) B. Nikhil 50.5.
1. POLITICS, 2. CITY CRUISE, 3. SMART BOY

5 MCEME ROLLING TROPHY (1,600m), 6-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 3.35: (No Whip Race). 1. Armstrong (11) Deepak 60, 2. N R I Sport (6) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 3. China Town (2) P. Ajeeth K 57.5, 4. Carnival Lady (13) Shivansh 56.5, 5. Lady Danger (8) B. Nikhil 56, 6. Sun Dancer (12) Md. Ekram 55, 7. Ampere's Touch (9) P. Sai K 54.5, 8. N R I Ultrapower (3) Abhay 53, 9. Top In Class (5) Md. Ismail 52.5, 10. Quality Warrior (10) Alex Rozario 52, 11. Coming Home (7) Mukesh 51.5, 12. Divine Destiny (4) Surya Prakash 51.5 and 13. Alpine Girl (1) Kuldeep Jr. 50.5.
1. N R I SPORT, 2. CHINA TOWN, 3. QUALITY WARRIOR

6 SHRAVAN KUMAR MEMORIAL CUP (Div. I) (1,200m), 4-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II) – 4.10: 1. Calistoga (2) Shivansh 60, 2. Knight Crusader (10) P. Ajeeth K 59, 3. High Heels (1) Gaurav 56, 4. Newfound Glory (7) P. Sai K 55.5, 5. Exclusive Black (6) Md. Ismail 54.5, 6. Glorious Power (9) Alexa Rozario 54.5, 7. Colt Pistol (3) Abhay 53.5, 8. N R I Dheera (5) Kuldeep Sr. 53, 9. Catchme If You Can (8) Mukesh 52.5 and 10. Rolls Royce (4) Md. Ekram 50.5.
1. CALISTOGA, 2. KNIGHT CRUSADER, 3. EXCLUSIVE BLACK

7 N. NARI REDDY MEMORIAL MILLION (1,200m) (Terms), 3-y-o only – 4.45: 1. Miss Smiley Angel (4) Kuldeep Sr. 56, 2. Cherie Chevalier (3) P. Sai K 54.5, 3. Racing Ruler (8) Mukesh 54.5, 4. Walking Thunder (9) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 5. Beverley (6) P. Ajeeth K 53, 6. Misty Night (5) R.S. Jodha 53, 7. Pacific Heights (1) Alexa Rozario 53, 8. Stars Envied (2) Md. Ismail 53 and 9. Turiya (7) H.M. Akshay 50.
1. CHERIE CHEVALIER, 2. RACING RULER, 3. MISS SMILEY ANGEL

8 RAJA R.J.K. RANGA RAO ZAMINDAR OF CHIKKAVARAM MEMORIAL TROPHY (Div. II) (1,400m), 5-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III) – 5.15: 1. Nkalanzinzi (10) Kuldeep Sr. 60, 2. Path Of Peace (4) Surya Prakash 59.5, 3. Power Ranger (8) Md. Ekram 59, 4. Alcahol Free (6) Rafique Sk. 58, 5. Fara (7) H.M. Akshay 56, 6. Pancho (5) Mukesh 55.5, 7. Muaser (11) Ashad Asbar 53.5, 8. Exclusive Spark (1) R.S. Bhati 53, 9. Blue Pantheress (9) P. Ajeeth K 52.5, 10. Desert Sultan (3) G. Naresh 51.5 and 11. Battle On (2) P. Sai K 50.5.
1. PANCHO, 2. DESERT SULTAN, 3. NKALANZINZI

Day's Best: **CHERIE CHEVALIER**
Jackpot: 4, 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Mini Jackpot: (i) 2, 3, 4 & 5, (ii) 5, 6, 7 & 8.
Treble: (i) 1, 2 & 3, (ii) 3, 4 & 5, (iii) 6, 7 & 8.
Tanala: All races.

Gloriousness claims the Bangalore Juvenile Million

BENGALURU: S. Narredu trained Gloriousness (Suraj up) won the Bangalore Juvenile Million (1,400m), the chief event of the races held here on Saturday (Feb 22). The winner is owned by Mr. Raghu S, Mr. S. Narredu, Mr. Balam Mohla & Mr. Anil Saraf.

THE RESULTS

1. GHATAPRABHA PLATE (1,400M): LADY INVICTUS (Trevor) 1, Elveden (Aleemuddin) 2, Sea Diamond (C. Umesh) 3 and Anchorage (Shreyas S) 4. Shd, 3-1/4 and Hd. 1m 27.03s. Rs. 32 (w), 10, 16 and 17 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 36, FP: 81, Q: 28, Trinella: 119/103, Exacta: 301/124. Favourite: Elveden.
Owner: Mr. Syed Muheeb. Trainer: M. Eshwer.

2. BELLARY PLATE (1,400M): SEKHMET (Antony) 1, Golden Time (Koshi K) 2, Disruptor (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Armory (M. Rajesh K) 4. 1-3/4, 3-1/2 and 3/4. 1m 26.15s. Rs. 33 (w), 12, 20 and 30 (p), SHP: 72, THP: 79, FP: 425, Q: 143, Trinella: 2,910/1,169, Exacta: 10,546/3,874. Favourite: King Of War.
Owner: Mr. Vasanth Kumar T.S. Trainer: Kishan Thomas.

3. SHIVAGANGA FALLS PLATE (DIV. II), (1,200M): PROPHECY (Likith Appu) 1, Noble Cause (L.A. Rozario) 2, Winfield (Antony) 3 and Mister Brown (Tousif) 4. Not run: Wakizashi. Shd, 2 and 3/4. 1m 13.54s. Rs. 31 (w), 13, 35 and 17 (p), SHP: 132, THP: 46, FP: 871, Q: 681, Trinella: 2,428/792, Exacta: 20,275/23,654. Favourite: Legendary Impact.
Owners: Mr. P.J. Vazifdar, Mr. M. Rishad, Mr. Kersi H. Vachha, Mr. Mukul A. Sonawala, M/s. DT Racing & Breeding LLP & Mr. Nariman Dickey Chothia. Trainer: S. Padmanabhan.

4. DELHI RACE CLUB TROPHY (1,600M): DE VILLIERS (Akshay K) 1, Vivaldo (Trevor) 2, Forseti (Salman Khan) 3 and Priceless Gold (Vinod Shinde) 4. 1, 2 and 1-3/4. 1m 39.20s. Rs. 14 (w), 10 and 12 (p), SHP: 17, THP: 24, FP: 19, Q: 11, Trinella: 24/29, Exacta: 34/17. Favourite: De Villiers.
Owners: Mr. Marthand Singh Mahindra, Mrs. Rina Mahindra, Mr. Rama Seshu Eyunni & Mr. P. Prabhakar Reddy. Trainer: S. Attaollahi.

5. BANGALORE JUVENILE MILLION (1,400M): GLORIOUSNESS (Suraj) 1, El Rey (David Allan) 2, Ice Of Fire (Sandesh) 3 and Moon Star (G. Vivek) 4. 2-1/2, 2-3/4 and 1. 1m 25.30s. Rs. 22 (w), 19 and 26 (p), SHP: 39, THP: 55, FP: 144, Q: 69, Trinella: 99/34, Exacta: 711/493. Favourite: Gloriousness.
Owners: Mr. Raghu S, Mr. S. Narredu, Mr. Balam Mohla & Mr. Anil Saraf. Trainer: S. Narredu.

6. SABARMATI PLATE (1,200M): PRINCESS JASMINE (Suhas K) 1, Raffles (Trevor) 2, N R I Millennium (S. Hinayathulla) 3 and Benzema (P. Sai Kumar) 4. 2-1/2, 1-1/4 and 3/4. 1m 15.55s. Rs. 158 (w), 32,13 and 68 (p), SHP: 38, THP: 193, FP: 650, Q: 371, Trinella: 20,861/8,940, Exacta: 82,009 (carried over). Favourite: Raffles.
Owners: Mr. Rakesh Kumar, Mr. H.K. Lakshman Gowda & Mrs. Champa Sharath. Trainer: V. Lokanath.

7. SHIVAGANGA FALLS PLATE (DIV. I), (1,200M): LADYLION (Antony) 1, All Attraction (A. Anamo Hangal) 2, Anzac Parade (L.A. Rozario) 3 and Priceless Prince (Saddam H) 4. Not run: Eclipse Pulse. 3-1/2, 1/2 and Lnk. 1m 13.46s. Rs. 20 (w), 13, 17 and 25 (p), SHP: 76, THP: 59, FP: 333, Q: 260, Trinella: 973/538, Exacta: 17,137/13,220. Favourite: Ladylion.
Owner: Mr. Ramesh R. Trainer: Sriram Komandur.
Jackpot: Rs. 23,941 (14 tkts); Runner-up: 3,056 (47 tkts); Treble (i): 201 (46 tkts); (ii): 3,133 (five tkts).